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PHILIPPINE DAILY
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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Friday, July 22, 2005 ★★ 70 pages / 8 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 226 P18

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PDI launches promo: Attention, wordsmiths

DO YOU have a passion for words? Unscramble a set of letters to form words and get a prize of P20,000 weekly. And, if you are really a wordsmith, how does P200,000 sound?

The Philippine Daily Inquirer recently launched the INQUIRER Platinum Code promo as part of the celebration of the newspaper's 20th founding anniversary on Dec. 9, 2005.

PDI/ A20

Young officers vow to bring GMA down

BING GONZALES, PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

SUSAN for President? It depends, she says in Davao City at the launch of the Gloria Step Down Now Movement.

Susan Roces shows interest in presidency

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE WIDOW of Fernando Poe Jr. yesterday left open the possibility of seeking the Philippine presidency amid the launching of a broad coalition calling for the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo and the formation of a caretaker government.

Sixty-six people who attended the inaugural meeting at the Quezon City Sports Club of the coalition calling itself Unity for Truth and Justice were asked to nominate people who would form the council.

Susan Roces topped the straw poll with 36 votes; followed by former Agrarian Reform Secretary Horacio Morales, 27; retired Gen. Fortunato Abat, 24; deposed President Joseph Estrada, 23; evangelist Eddie Villanueva, 22, and former Defense Secretary Renato de Villa, 21.

The launching of the coalition coincided with Roces' first provincial political sortie since she delivered a fighting speech on June 29, accusing Ms Arroyo of stealing the presidency, "not once, but twice."

SUSAN/ A8

Pacific Plans blinks, will pay plan holders

By Alcuin Papa

AFTER a bruising battle in the courts and in media, the management of troubled pre-need firm Pacific Plans Inc. (PPI) has finally decided to settle the claims of plan holders.

In exchange for the education plans they are holding, all members of the Parents Enabling Parents Coalition (PEP Coalition) will be paid "entitlements" for their children's tuition, PPI and PEP said in a joint statement.

These entitlements will be "based on current values" being charged by schools for the school year 2005-2006.

PACIFIC/ A20

They claim AFP behind wiretapping

By Fe Zamora and Luige del Puerto

A GROUP of officers who nearly ousted President Corazon Aquino in a 1989 coup attempt announced yesterday it was breaking a 10-year-old peace agreement to try and bring down President Macapagal-Arroyo and save the country.

In a three-page statement released to the INQUIRER, the Young Officers' Union (YOU) said it was making a "final stand to save the country from further ruin and continue the unfinished revolution of our forefathers."

In effect confirming that the military was behind the "Hello Garci" tapes, the YOU statement said the intelligence service had wiretapped private conversations of some officials and individuals, including Ms Arroyo herself, during last year's elections. It said the wiretapping was carried out "against the advice of the officers of the intelligence command."

In a text message, Director General Arturo Lomibao, chief of the Philippine National Police, said he would look into the YOU statement.

"We will validate if this is the organizational position or just the position of some members," Lomibao said.

The YOU hammered out a peace pact with the government in 1995 that paved the way for an amnesty grant to some 4,000 members, allowed them to

YOUNG/ A8

HAIL TO THE CHIEF. President Arroyo swears in 27 PNP officers she promoted to star rank on Thursday at the Rizal Ceremonial Hall in Malacañang. The PNP has on several occasions openly declared its solid support of the President. Also in photo are PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao (2nd from left) and Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita. EDWIN BACASMAS

Reds face arrest as enemies of state

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Delfin T. Mallari Jr. and Luige A. del Puerto

OFFICIALS of the communist-led National Democratic Front in the country face arrest following its decision to end peace talks with the government, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said yesterday.

Ermita said the government would immediately abrogate the Joint Agreements on Security and Immunity Guarantees that allowed top communist officials to move unimpeded while peace negotiations with the administration were going on.

"Those who are on the list will not be free anymore because they will be placed in the order of battle of the police and military. They will become targets of the authorities because they are enemies of the state," Ermita said.

Luis Jalandoni, chief negotiator of the Utrecth-based NDF panel, said Wednesday that there was no point in resuming talks with the administration

REDS FACE / A8

Impeachment bid gains speed: 50 on board, 29 to go

By Michael Lim Ubac and Philip C. Tubeza

ONLY 29 signatures to go.

An opposition leader yesterday claimed at least 50 lawmakers have committed to sign an impeachment resolution against President Macapagal-Arroyo, just 29 signatures short of the number needed for the transmittal of the complaint to the Senate for trial.

"We have breached the 50 count and we're gaining ground," House Minority Leader Francis Escudero told the INQUIRER.

Escudero said he was confident at least 79 lawmakers—one-third of the 236-member House—would sign the opposition resolution "for the sake of truth and justice," paving the way for Ms Arroyo's impeachment trial at the Senate.

Escudero and his colleagues plan to file the impeachment complaint on Monday morning when the regular session of Congress opens. Should the opposition secure the signatures of 79 lawmakers by then, this would prove embarrassing to Ms Arroyo when she delivers her annual State of the Nation Address later in the afternoon.

"Of course, the formalities will come later. The actual transmittal of the Articles of Impeachment will be done on Tuesday by the Speaker who, although he's the head of the ruling power in the House, has no other recourse but to perform a constitutional duty," said a lawmaker who asked not to be identified.

The impeachment charges are expect-

IMPEACHMENT / A4

Yes to a Caretaker Council!
Unity for Truth and Justice
TRUTH WILL SET

REUTERS

LINKING arms to signify the birth of the coalition of various anti-Arroyo groups, Unity for Truth and Justice, some founding members present at the Quezon City Sports Club urge the creation of a "temporary caretaker council." From left, Ed de la Torre, Ramon Cardenas, Marietta Goco, Horacio Morales, Roy Señeres, Triccie Sison and Liwayway Vinzons Chatto.

Palace considers former Erap exec to replace Bunye

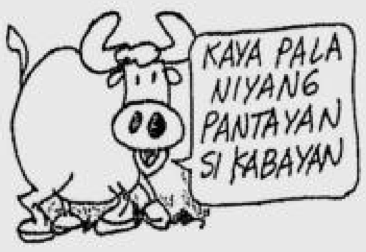
By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

LAWYER Mike Toledo, spokesperson of President Joseph Estrada during his final days in Malacañang, is being wooed as the new spokesperson of President Macapagal-Arroyo who critics say is at the end of her rope.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, Toledo confirmed that he got a serious offer several weeks ago from Malacañang to replace Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye whose handling of the "Hello Garci" tape put Ms Arroyo in a deep hole. It was Bunye himself who relayed the Palace offer, Toledo said.

But Toledo clarified he may be working alongside Bunye if he accepts the Palace offer.

PALACE / A4



KAYA PALA NIYANG PANTAYAN SI KABAYAN

Gloria moonlights as TV host

By Gil Cabacungan Jr. and TJ Burgonio

IS THIS part of her much-talked about image makeover or is she just insecure about Vice President Noli de Castro, a veteran television news anchor?

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday moonlighted as a talk show host when she made a surprise television appearance in one of a series of current affairs programs that have been the normal morning and afternoon fare of the state-run NBN 4 for the last two weeks.

Although eyebags could still be discerned underneath her make-up, the President was radiant in her blue suit, which has been her

GLORIA/ A4

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon and Visayas will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over Visayas. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy with rainshowers and thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

COMPILED BY ERIKA A. SARMIENTO, PDI RESEARCH/07/22/05 SOURCE PAGASA

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Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Generals on Garci tape probed

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

IN AN apparent turnaround, the military on Wednesday said Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Efren Abu has finally ordered an investigation into at least four generals implicated in "Hello Garci" election fraud controversy.

Abu directed Vice Admiral Mateo Mayuga, the military's Inspector General, to conduct such probe "more than two weeks ago," said AFP deputy chief of staff Lt. Gen. Edilberto Adan.

"The AFP has taken cognizance of these allegations of the involvement of some generals and we have directed the inspector general to investigate," Adan told reporters Wednesday night. "We did not set aside the issue, we acted on it," he added.

It was the first time the military said there was an ongoing investigation. Last July 6 military officials dismissed calls for an investigation.

At the time there was a reported threat by junior officers and even some generals to resign or go on mass leave unless the generals who allegedly conspired with President Macapagal-Arroyo to cheat in the last elections are investigated.

AFP Special Operations Command (Socom) chief, Maj. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, one of those mentioned in the tape, insisted there was "no basis" to place him under investigation.

AFP public information chief Lt. Col. Buenaventura Pascual also said the military top brass was not inclined to investigate. "So far we have not received any report about the issue (of election fraud). So how can we act on the matter without any basis?," he had said.

Adan did not say why the military leadership changed its mind, or when Abu issued his directive. Adan announced the investigation after resigned Lt. Gen. Romeo Dominguez, the former Northern Luzon Command chief, assailed the military leadership for not investigating the "Hello Garci tapes."

"We are doing something. Unfortunately, it seems General Dominguez was not informed," Adan said. He said the investigating team also includes Commodore Emilio Marayag, Brig. Gen. Romeo Alamillo and Col. Caridad Aguilar. Adan said Mayuga has already asked Congress to get copies of the "Hello Garci" tapes and has summoned some of the generals involved for "preliminary" questioning.

But an official privy to the investigation said no generals have been summoned so far. Other generals mentioned in the wiretapped conversations between the President and Comelec official Virgilio Garcillano were retired Lt. Gen. Roy Kyamko who is now head of an anti-smuggling task force; Brig. General Francisco Gudani; and Major General Gabriel Habacon.

Only Esperon, whom the President has chosen as the next Army chief effective Aug. 16, has denied involvement in election fraud. He said he "welcomed any investigation that will be conducted on me or on the Armed Forces."

Adult unemployment hits record 20% — SWS

By Jerome Aning

UNEMPLOYMENT among adult Filipinos reached a record high of 20.3 percent last May, according to a survey of the Social Weather Station for the second quarter of 2005.

If applied to the national situation, the SWS survey means that more than one half of all young adult Filipinos were unemployed as of May, and that more women than men are jobless.

SWS said its statistics on unemployed referred to the population of adults aged 18 and over, which is different from the official labor force definition. An unemployed, according to the National Statistics Office, is an individual who is at least 15 years old and is reported as jobless, or is available for work, or is seeking work or not seeking work due to valid reasons.

SWS said its survey showed that adult unemployment in the country had been "extremely high" for four successive quarters, starting from 19 percent and 18.7 in the 3rd and 4th quarters of 2004, respectively, and 16.5 percent in the 1st quarter of 2005.

It was only during these quarters when adult unemployment rose above 15 percent, viewed from the time SWS started its unemployment statistical series in 1993.

The release of the SWS survey seemed to buttress the assessment made by the Alliance of Progressive Labor (APL) and the Labor Education and Research Network (Learn) yesterday that the Arroyo administration "utterly failed" to deliver on its promise to create at least one million jobs a year.

From January to April this year, APL and Learn said net job creation was a mere 400,000 jobs. Net job creation refers to the increase in jobs over the same period in last year.

According to Learn's head researcher Clarence Pascual, job creation slowed beginning October 2004, was lower by January but recovered slightly last April.

Pascual said unemployment remained high, about 12.9 percent of the labor force as of April this year, a slight improvement from the 13.7 percent in the same month last year.

The SWS survey said the relatively high unemployment among women and among younger members of the labor force were consistent with the results of its previous surveys.

For its survey, SWS said it interviewed a national sample of 1,200 statistically representative households.

BIR resumes drive vs tax cheats...

By Cynthia D. Balana

AFTER a two-week hiatus following the resignation of its head, the Bureau of Internal Revenue yesterday revived its campaign against tax evaders by filing charges against an export company for failure to pay taxes amounting to P165 million over five years.

Mitsuko Phil. Corporation, a customs bonded warehouse engaged in the manufacture of Christmas decorations, lights and other novelty items for export, was charged before the Department of Justice for non-filing of income tax returns, withholding tax returns on compensation and expanded withholding tax from 1998 to 2002.

Named respondents in the complaint were King Lin Leu, the company president, and Yen Chan Liaw, treasurer.

The BIR found out that Mitsuko imported excessive quantities of resins—the raw material for the manufacture of plastic products—valued at P1.5 billion during the four-year period. It said resin was not a material used for Mitsuko's Christmas decor products.

The BIR also discovered that Mitsuko had been using a tax identification number 000-697-5110, in various documents filed with the Bureau of Customs which belonged to another company.

"The Mitsuko officials' deliberate and repeated failure to file their company's income tax returns demonstrates their willful and unlawful intent not to declare their true income," said BIR commissioner Jose Mario Bunag.

He said the Securities and Exchange Commission also confirmed that the company failed to file the necessary general information sheet from 1999 to 2002, and the company's financial statements from 1999 to 2002.

BIR assistant commissioner Gerardo Flores said Mitsuko had annual earnings of P22 million and P21 million in 1998 and 1999. This rose to P637 million and P858 million for the taxable years 2001 and 2002, respectively.

Flores also said a tipster informed the BIR about Mitsuko's violations.

Mitsuko is the 27th corporate entity that have been charged by the BIR for tax evasion under the Operation RATE (Run After Tax Evaders) which was started by former Finance secretary Cesar Purisima.

The filing of charges against tax evaders was suspended for two weeks after the BIR commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr. resigned.

Bunag, the BIR assistant commissioner for legal affairs, replaced Parayno.

Finance Undersecretary Emmanuel Bonoan said the tax evasion campaign would continue no matter who led the BIR or the finance department.

"We have institutionalized the program and we are glad that its existence is not dependent on the personalities at the helm," he said.

... But may let Regine off the book

SONGBIRD Regine Velasquez may yet escape becoming a jailbird by simply paying up.

The new Bureau of Internal Revenue commissioner yesterday said he was open to "compromises" with those caught by the bureau's Run After Tax Evaders program.

The program set out to file charges against high-profile tax delinquents every week and finance officials initially said there would be no compromises.

Bunag proposes to change the finance department policy.

"I will be judged at the end of my term on how much I collected, and not how many people I sent to jail ... My understanding is that the RATE program is to encourage people to pay, if they will offer to pay, why not accept the payment," he said.

Although the compromise will "not extinguish the criminal liability," Bunag said those who offer to pay their tax dues in full would have a chance to have their cases dropped.

"We will not pursue the case. We can have a settlement instead of sending them to jail," he said.

Velasquez faces up to 10 years imprisonment for her alleged failure to declare P3.75 million income in 2003. Other showbiz stars who have been charged with tax evasion are actor Richard Gomez and Judy Ann Santos.

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Truth commission repugnant — Miriam

ADMINISTRATION Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago yesterday rejected the idea of a truth commission to investigate the charges against President Macapagal-Arroyo, saying it was a "misconceived proposal" that had no legal basis.

"The truth commission proposed by the CBCP (Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines), and adopted in principle by President Arroyo, is redundant and repugnant to Philippine law. It will likely be questioned in the Supreme Court on constitutional grounds," Santiago said in a statement.

Santiago said the CBCP based its proposal for a truth commission on two laws in South Africa and the United States but which were non-existent in the Philippines and were thus irrelevant in the impeachment crisis facing Ms Arroyo.

"There is simply no legal basis for the CBCP proposal, and a mere administrative order by the President would be legally incompetent," said Santiago, a constitutional expert and member of the pro-administration majority in the Senate.

Independent counsel

Legal experts, opposition leaders and other sectors have said that the creation of a special body to investigate the President was either illegal or meant to preempt the impeachment process.

Many senators are opposed to the truth commission, preferring the impeachment process as the proper forum to resolve the crisis.

Santiago said the 1995 Promotion of National Unity and Reconciliation Act of South Africa was irrelevant because it concerned the prosecution of human rights violations during apartheid and had nothing to do with impeachment.

Another prototype, the 1994 Independent Counsel Reauthorization Act of the United States, was applicable to impeachment but the Philippines has no such law at the moment, Santiago said.

Under the US model, an independent counsel is appointed whose jurisdiction extends to full investigation and prosecution of the President, including the power to compel the President to testify.

Santiago said the functions of an independent counsel are already being performed by the joint House and Senate committees investigating the jueteng and wiretapping scandals.

Malacañang meanwhile has been non-committal on whether the President would abide by the findings of a truth commission.

"That's jumping the gun. You cannot answer with a simple yes or no," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

"As the President said, what is important is to know the truth and this will be in aid of finding the truth," Bunye said.

Secretary Gabriel Claudio, the presidential legislative liaison, said Malacañang was not trying to preempt the impeachment process and would consult legislators on how the two could be reconciled.

He said the creation of the truth commission may have to be "reinforced" by a joint resolution of Congress. *Juliet Labog-Javellana, Leila B. Salaverria and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

Palace won't rock Senate vote

WHILE it might have been hurt by his breakaway, Malacañang isn't too eager to "rock the boat" at the Senate and unseat Senate President Franklin Drilon, administration senators said yesterday.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. and Senate Pro Tempore Juan Flavier also doused cold water on their colleagues' ambitions for the Senate presidency, saying that nobody for now could muster the 13 votes needed to replace Drilon.

"And Malacañang doesn't want to rock the boat," Magsaysay said, pointing out that Palace officials loathe the idea of dealing with a new Senate leader "who will give more difficulties to the President."

When asked if Drilon still enjoys the support of President Macapagal-Arroyo, Magsaysay said: "Not necessarily support, but there's a tacit acceptance."

Flavier, for his part, disclosed that Malacañang has not initiated any moves "to dislodge" Drilon, who led the breakaway of Liberal Party stalwarts on July 8 and called for the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"There's another angle that Malacañang is intervening. My answer to that is simple: if there's anyone who would be called by Malacañang, I would be one of them. I have not received any call from them," he told reporters.

"But for how long [will Malacañang keep its hands off], that's the question," he added.

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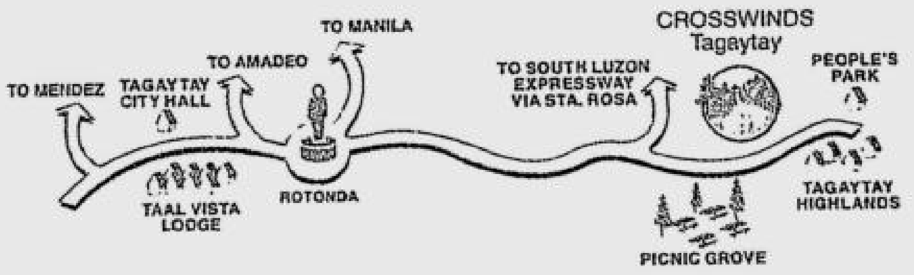
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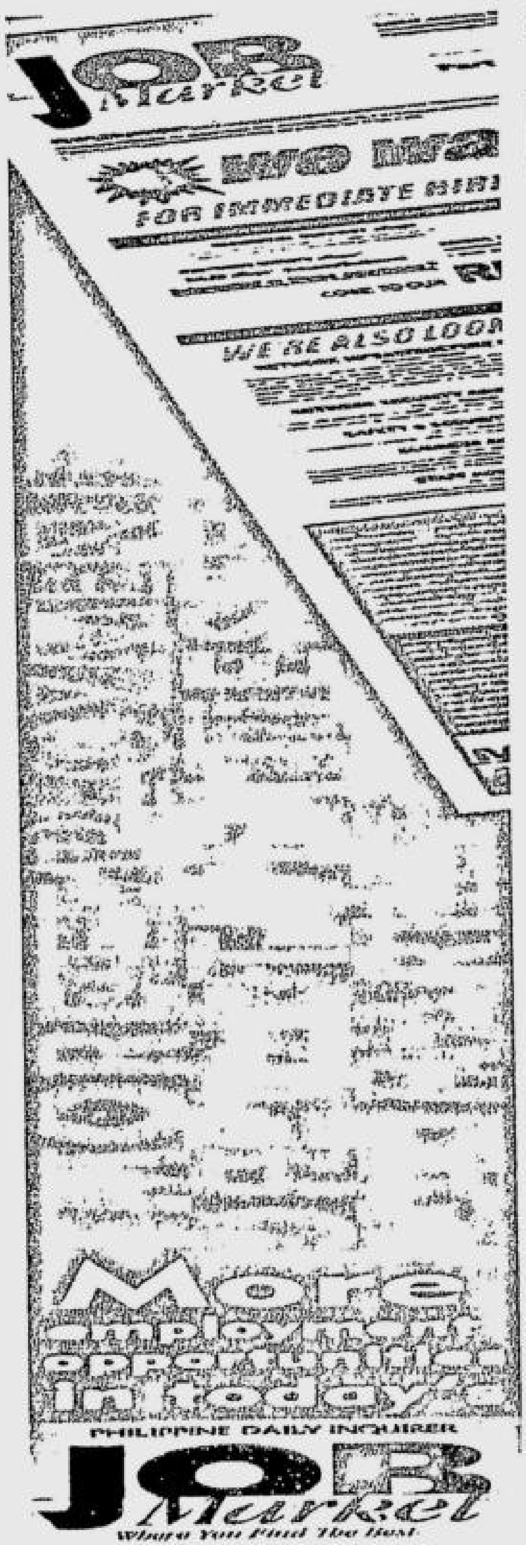
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Gloria moonlights as TV host

From page A1

favorite color since the "Hyatt 10" resignation on July 6.

She wore a confident smile throughout her brief stint as a TV moderator in an NBN remote studio at the Rizal Hall in Malacañang. The show was simulcast live over the state-owned dzRB radio.

Importance of report

"I really did my best to make it a point to make this announcement myself because of the the importance of my report," Ms Arroyo said in her introductory remarks.

A poised President introduced her guests, Ernesto Garcia of Pacific Plans and Philip Piccio, who represents the pre-need plan holders. They discussed their agreement to reach a win-win solution on the unpaid tuition fees of student-beneficiaries within 30 days.

'Micro-managing'

"Micro-managing," administration Sen. Ramon Magsasay Jr. yesterday twitted President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Magsaysay cited for instance Ms Arroyo's photo-op with Calvin Tan, alleged head of a drug-trafficking ring that runs one of Southeast Asia's largest clandestine drug laboratories in Cebu's Mandaue City, on Wednesday in Malacañang.

"Why did he have to go to Malacañang? It demeans the Palace for him to go to Malacañang. No need. It's not necessary. He should be in jail," the independent administration senator rued in a press briefing.

The media presentation of Tan, who was extradited from Hong Kong late Tuesday to face charges in Manila, should have been held elsewhere and handled by a Cabinet official, he said.

Grown-up men, women

Reiterating his views in a July 18 "open letter" to Ms Arroyo, Magsaysay urged the President to drop her "micro-management" style and allow her Cabinet officials to clean up and reform their own agencies.

"We want the President to manage by assigning and delegating more authority to the new officials of the government. Give them the elbow room; they don't need to report to her every day," he said.

"These are grown men and women, they should be allowed to do it. Then appraise them every three months ... Let the surveys find out if the people are more satisfied with public service of each agency," he added.

Personal hand

The President, who is well known for taking a personal hand in Malacañang publicity affairs, justified making the personal announcement on the Pacific Plan agreement as she had herself announced that she would intervene in the multibillion-peso pre-need plan mess that had put the investments of 1.4 million plan holders in limbo.

"I have good news," the President said when she repeated her order to allocate P1 billion of the government's dividends from the Government Service and Insurance System to state universities and colleges that would take in the stranded students.

Abrupt exit

After Garcia and Piccio talked about the details of their agreement, the President awkwardly cut short her brief TV show stint. "I will leave you now and it's up to you two to ask other questions so that other plan holders can reach the light at the end of the tunnel," she said.

The President normally takes De Castro along in her television or radio appearances, considering that her constitutional successor has decades-long experience in broadcasting.

China revalues currency

BEIJING—China yesterday dropped its politically volatile policy of linking its currency to the US dollar but retained controls on its exchange rate, switching the link to a basket of foreign currencies in a move that could push up the price of Chinese exports to the United States and Europe.

The government strengthened the state-set exchange rate of the yuan to 8.11 to the dollar, up from 8.277, where it had been fixed for more than a decade, the government said in a surprise announcement on the state television evening news. That raised the value of one yuan by about one-quarter of one US cent to 12.33 cents.

China had been under pressure for years from its trading partners to let the yuan float or at least to raise its exchange rate. The United States and others said it undervalued the yuan by up to 40 percent, giving Chinese exporters an unfair price advantage.

The change Thursday appeared to be too small to satisfy the United States or other governments, which say inexpensive Chinese imports are threatening thousands of jobs.

"This is the start of a gradual appreciation process," said Frank Gong, managing director of JP Morgan Chase & Co. in Hong Kong. "It will help balance Chinese trade flows. Export volumes will come down. Import volumes will pick up. It will help reduce trade tensions."

Malaysia simultaneously announced it was dropping its own policy tying its currency, the ringgit, to the US dollar and would adopt a similar arrangement.

Some US lawmakers had threatened to impose retaliatory tariffs if China didn't adjust its yuan trading scheme.

The yuan will now be allowed to trade in a tight 0.3 percent band against a basket of foreign currencies, the government said. It didn't say which currencies.

It said the central bank would announce the yuan's closing price each day, and that rate would be the midpoint of the next day's trading band.

Chinese leaders have said for years that they eventually would let the yuan trade freely on world markets. But they said any decision would be based on China's economic needs, not foreign pressure.

Chinese officials said any abrupt change in its currency system would cause turmoil, hurting its fragile banks and financial industries. *AP*

Magsaysay writes GMA on reforms

By TJ Burgonio

IN A JULY 18 letter to President Arroyo, Sen. Ramon Magsaysay drew up a list of short-term reforms that she should carry out to stave off the current political crisis.

His proposed reforms include cleansing the bureaucracy, filing charges against officials involved in corrupt deals, promoting transparency in public service, instituting economic and social reforms, among others.

The senator lamented that the President had been too busy fending off allegations that she allegedly cheated in the presidential elections that she had forgotten to adopt "effective management programs."

"She has a constitutional duty to serve the people and in trying to defend the administration and herself, and in trying to survive, it seems that the day-to-day management objectives of improving the bureaucracy through the adoption of effective management programs have been left out," he said.

Apart from relying on the expanded value-added tax, and the taxes on cigarette and alcohol to offset the looming fiscal crisis, the senator proposed for the administration check on its expenditures, Magsaysay said.

"We have to look at the expenditure side and that is part of management. The administration is spending so much to make her survive," he said.

Impeachment bid gains speed: 50 on board, 29 to go

From page A1

ed to revolve around an alleged wiretapped phone conversation between Ms Arroyo and Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, in which the two purportedly plotted to rig the 2004 presidential election.

Administration Rep. Joey Salceda of Albay earlier said impeaching the President was not a remote possibility, noting that at least 73 anti-Arroyo lawmakers were ready to support the complaint.

Head count

Based on Salceda's head count, the opposition is only six signatures short of the number needed for a Senate impeachment trial.

The 73 anti-Arroyo lawmakers are made up of 28 in the minority bloc, 10 party-list representatives, 21 members of the Liberal Party which recently have turned against the President, four administration lawmakers who bolted the majority (Roilo Golez, Robert Jaworski Jr., Edmund Reyes and Clavel Martinez) and 10 Nacionalista Party members.

Salceda said the opposition would have no difficulty getting six crucial signatures from some disgruntled members of the ruling Lakas-CMD and businessman Eduardo Cojuangco's Nationalist People's Coalition, the second largest bloc in Congress.

Escudero urged the majority not to block the automatic transmittal of the impeachment complaint to the Senate. The opposition earlier claimed that Malacañang and its House allies had been dangling all sorts of offers to lawmakers to dissuade them from supporting the complaint.

"They have been saying all along that Ms Arroyo is willing to face the charges in the proper forum. So that once and for all we can have closure on the poll fraud, Pidal and 'jueteng' issues, by all means let's go ahead with the impeachment," the minority leader said.

"We will afford the President her day in court. I hope she will utilize it and not avoid it," he added.

Plan of majority

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles assured Escudero that the majority was one with the opposition in the search for truth. He rejected the opposition's claim that Ms Arroyo's allies were out to kill the impeachment complaint.

"This is the very reason why as chairman of the committee on rules, [I'm] determined to immediately calendar the complaint in the House order of business," Nograles said.

Even so, he stressed that the majority would want the impeachment process to go through all the steps necessary to determine if there was "reasonable ground for the President to be put on trial."

He acknowledged that the only way for the minority to shortcut the process was to secure the required 79 signatures.

"This would be immediately referred to the Senate to mark the beginning of the impeachment trial," Nograles said.

No more 'madame wetness'

The opposition, however, is in no mood to go through a tedious impeachment process at the House. The opposition's prosecution team, in fact, is preparing this early for a Senate trial.

San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora, the lead prosecutor, said members of the team would take a refresher course on how to properly conduct themselves in open court, with the President's impeachment trial expected to be televised live nationwide.

"We will review even our English. There will be no more 'madame wetness'," Zamora said, referring to the mispronounced words of former Leyte Rep. Sergio Apostol when he acted as a prosecutor in the impeachment trial of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Honing skills

Zamora said that he and the 10 other prosecutors would hold moot court trials next week to hone their skills in cross-examining witnesses.

"Basically, what we want is for our prosecutors to be able to ask questions using brief and meaningful sentences," he said. "This is not Entertainment 101. This is a serious matter and we will handle this as professionally as possible."

Zamora said that he was also confident that the opposition would be able to secure the signatures of 79 lawmakers.

"First things first, we have to get this (complaint) out in the open. I'm confident, knowing the strength of the cases, that this would pass the House," he said.

Zamora said that Taguig-Pateros Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano would serve as the prosecution team's spokesperson. He declined to name the other members of the team, saying only that they were lawyers who would come from the main opposition, party-list groups, and the Liberal Party.

'Just tell the truth'

Zamora, who was with the Estrada administration when the former President was impeached, urged Ms Arroyo to just tell the truth and spare the country a prolonged impeachment process.

Having been Estrada's executive secretary, Zamora said that the view from Malacañang in times of crisis could often be skewed.

"When you are in the Palace, you can make so many mistakes. You think that you made the correct decisions but later events conspire against you and you are proven wrong," Zamora said.

"The President should tell the truth, face the people and accept their judgment."

Palace considers former Erap exec to replace Bunye

From page A1

Bunye has been rumored to have submitted an irrevocable resignation to the President.

It was Bunye who first announced to the public on June 6 the existence of taped conversations between Ms Arroyo and an election official in which the President allegedly ordered the rigging of last year's presidential election.

"It's a very serious and direct invitation to join. I am flattered and if I can help ensure respect for our institutions, I will," said Toledo, who stressed that negotiations were still going on.

Toledo claimed that even in 2001, when Ms Arroyo assumed the presidency, "I was asked to stay but out of *delicadeza* I didn't and there have been overtures from time to time since then."

'Angara boy'

Toledo is being branded as an "Angara boy" because he worked as litigation and corporate lawyer for six years at the Accra law office where Sen. Edgardo Angara is a founding partner.

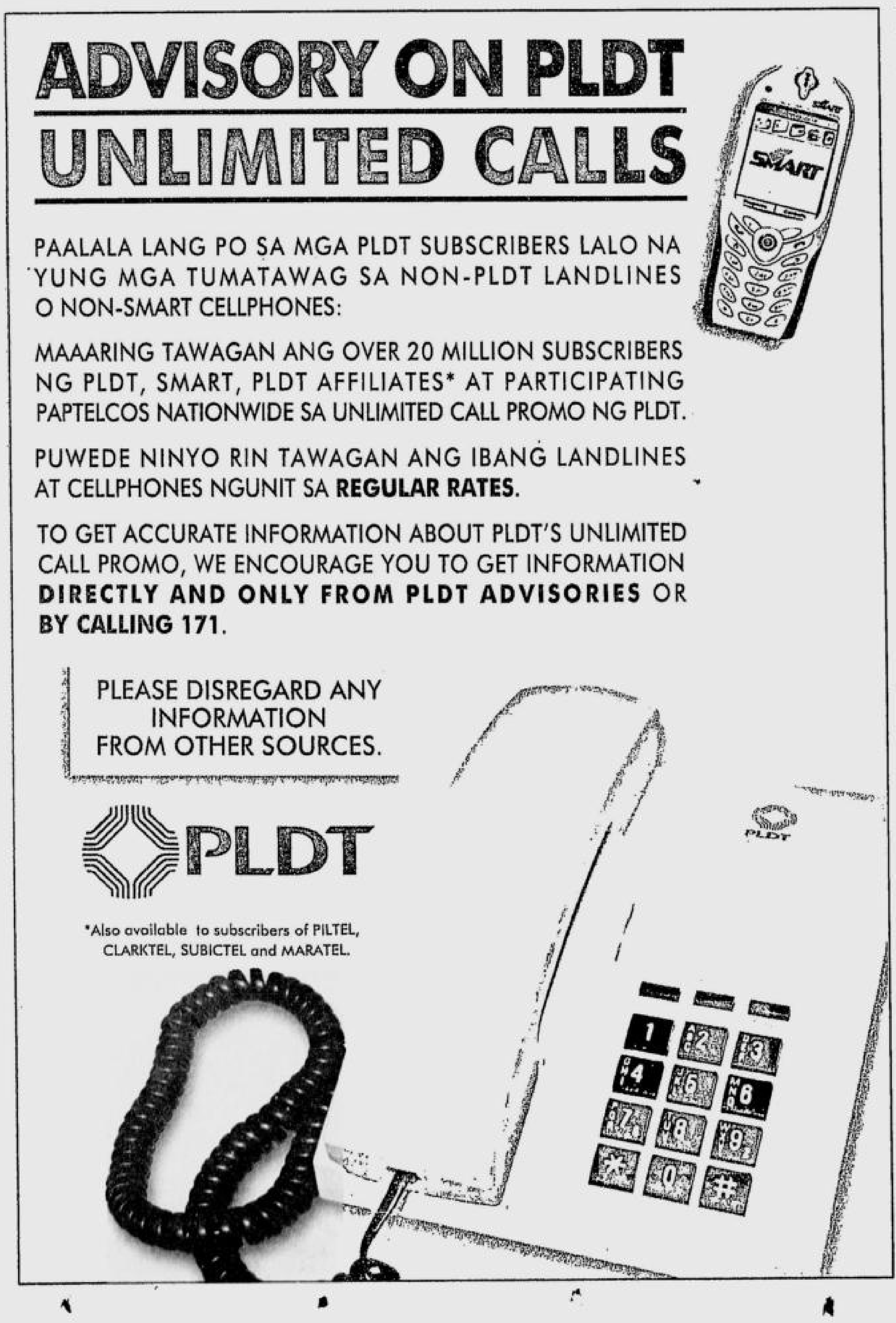
"We (Angara and him) were together with Estrada in Malacañang but it wasn't he who got me to work for Estrada. It was the businessmen friends and brother of Estrada," Toledo said.

Although he would be remembered for his post in the dying days of the Estrada administration, Toledo said he worked in the Palace for two years—first as assistant secretary then undersecretary, acting press secretary and presidential spokesperson.

Toledo said he first worked for the government during the Ramos administration as a legal consultant for the Manila International Airport Authority, Department of Transportation and Communication, National Food Authority, Government Service and Insurance System, Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, and the Office of the Executive Secretary.

"Not many people know this," he said.

Toledo is a UP Law School graduate and studied for a master of laws in international economics at the London School of Economics as a British Council scholar.



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Closure call brings more visitors to marine park

By Blanche S. Rivera

INSTEAD of causing closure, the death of a false killer whale in a marine park in Subic has sparked curiosity and brought in more guests at the Ocean Adventure park.

Ocean Adventure president John Corcoran said the controversy generated by the call of animal rights activists to close down the facility has encouraged people to check out the park on Cawayan Bay in Subic.

"It's not the first time this has happened. We were greeted here by activists; it's an issue we've had to deal with and will continue to deal with," Corcoran said.

"We've seen people coming to the park out of curiosity because some controversy was brought up," he said.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has said Ocean Adventure would remain open. It has also not required the park to secure an environmental compliance certificate from the agency as the DENR row with Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority over the issuance of permits has not yet been resolved.

Corcoran invited the animal rights activists calling for the park's closure to see the facilities and check the care given to animals.

Ocean Adventure, the only open water marine park in Southeast Asia, spends 35-40 percent of its annual expenditure for animal care.

"I would encourage activist groups to follow our lead... It's going to take a lot more people, animal activist groups, school groups, conservation groups and government all joining hands... for conservation education... Let's set aside the hatred," he said.

'Doomed animals'

Ocean Adventure chief executive officer Timothy Desmond belied claims by Earth Island Institute-Philippines and Philippine Animal Welfare Society that the park was harvesting cetaceans for human amusement.

Desmond said the park's animals were "doomed animals" because they were either wounded or recovered from people who would have killed the animals for food.

Hook, the 13-year-old female false killer whale who died on July 8, was wounded by a harpoon when it was brought to the park. Hook was the third killer whale to die in the park in four years, possibly of gastro-intestinal illness.

"When we got them here, these animals had a fixed life span. They had one day, but Hook, for example, lives for another seven years because of the care she got here," Desmond said.

Desmond expressed confidence that the Philippine public is "smart enough to know something of value when they see it and to know over time which claims are accurate or not."

A total of 869,441 visitors have been to Ocean Adventure since 2002, of which 28,508 were foreigners. Some 16,000 came from as far as Mindanao and 20,000 from Visayas.

Corcoran said he was expecting the biggest number of guests this year. The company's June 30 report showed 132,176 people have visited the park this year, already more than half last year's total 248,420.

"I think our ethics is what will protect us," Desmond said.

DOLE chief's ma dies; 83

PRISCILLA Villaruel-Aragon, mother of Labor and Employment Secretary Patricia A. Sto. Tomas, died yesterday in Davao City due to lingering illness. She was 83 years old.

A native of Calapan, Oriental Mindoro, Priscilla was born on Oct. 3, 1921. This plain housewife was married to the late Mariano Aragon of Malate, Manila and bore seven children, six girls and one boy.

She is survived by her daughters Pat, Pearl, Marian, Pilar, Joji, son Enrique and grandchildren. In addition to her husband Mariano, she was preceded in death by her daughter Mae who died in 1989.

Her body lies at the Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes in Davao City and will be cremated today.

Santa pursued by UFOs?

Santa has been spotted flying around being pursued by what at first were thought to be 10 unidentified flying objects or UFOs. Upon closer look, the UFOs were discovered to be 10 individual houses, and each one was bundled up with a family SUV and money bags containing cash.

Upon further investigation, it has been revealed that the bundles are, actually, the 10 All-In-One Grand Packages that will be given away as Grand Prizes to 10 lucky NESTLÉ product shoppers in the "NESTLÉ Pasko Na, Pasko Now! P50 Million Raffle Promo," currently ongoing until September 30, 2005.

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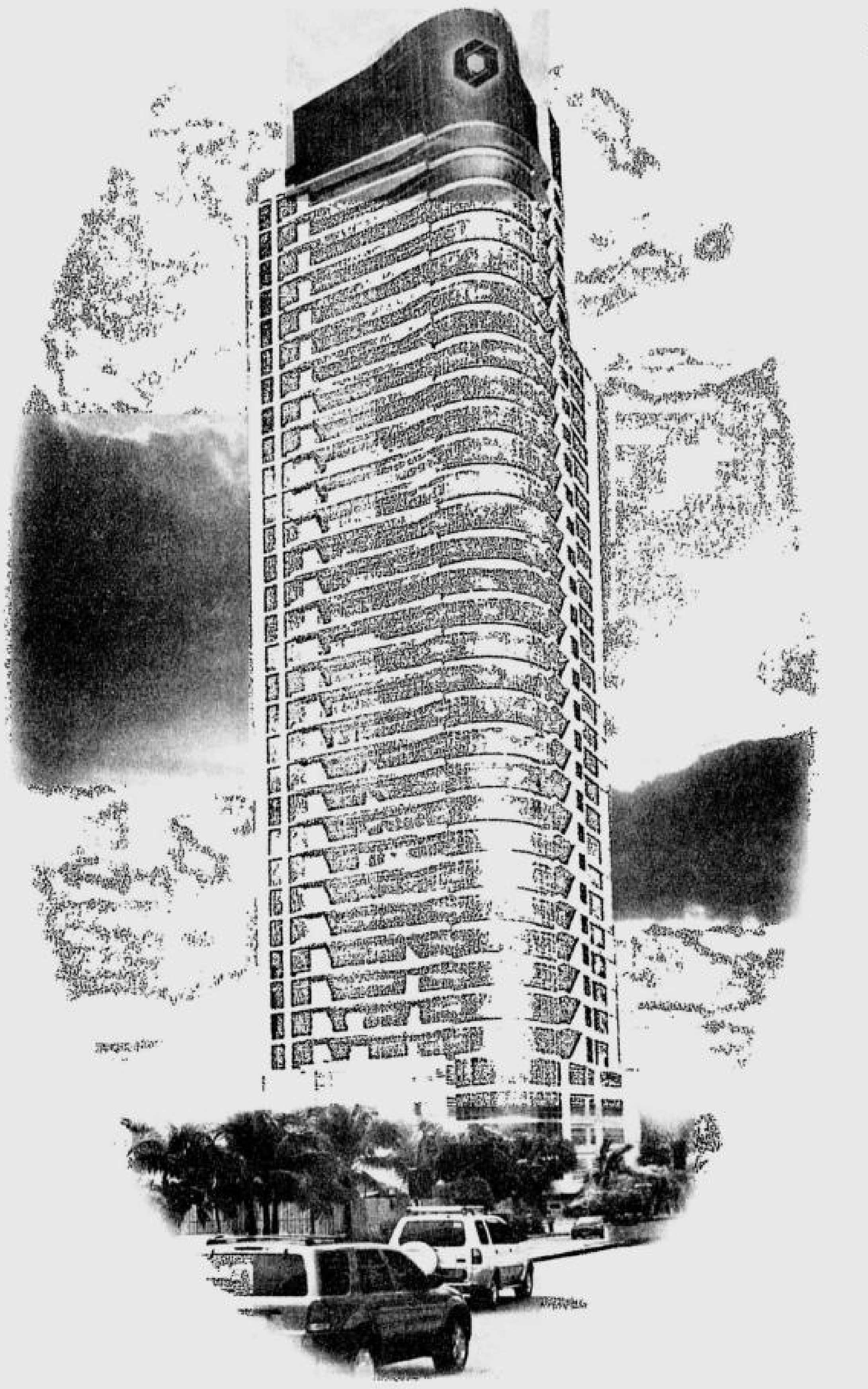

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Another survey, more bad news for besieged GMA

By Norman Bordadora

A GOOD majority of Filipinos, not just Metro Manilans, find President Macapagal-Arroyo's performance unsatisfactory and her nationally televised apology insincere and they want her removed from Malacañang, a local research group Ibon Foundation said yesterday.

According to Ibon's mid-year survey, more than 68 percent of the 1,300 respondents chosen through nationwide random sampling answered "yes" when asked if, in their opinion, Ms Arroyo should be removed as President.

"Right now, the idea being put forth (by the administration) is that Ms Arroyo is unpopular only in the national capital region. This survey would show, that there are regions whose people are more dissatisfied with the Arroyo administration," said Antonio Tujan, Ibon research director.

"The respondents in this survey were chosen by random sampling nationwide. They can't say that this is just reflective of the sentiments in Metro Manila," Tujan told the INQUIRER.

The survey was done from July 8 to July 17, a time after Ms Arroyo apologized on national TV for a "lapse in judgment" in talking to an election official during the national canvass in 2004 and around the time when key Cabinet officials resigned and withdrew support from her.

It has a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points, Ibon said.

"This survey shows that majority of the people doubt her sincerity in her apology, believe in the culpability of members of her family in the jueteng scandal, think there is severe corruption in her government, believe that she should be removed and that there is still a general disagreement on how she should be removed," Tujan said.

Only 21.68 percent answered "no" to the question on whether Ms Arroyo should be removed as President. More than eight percent answered "don't know" while more than one percent didn't answer at all.

Asked if they thought Ms Arroyo was sincere in her televised admission and in saying that she did nothing wrong, 65.12 percent of the respondents said "no." Only 22.84 of the respondents answered "yes," 10.88 percent said they didn't know and 1.16 percent had no answer.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, July 22, 2005
Mary Magdalene

1st Reading: Song 3:1-4
Gospel: John 20:1-2, 11-18

On the first day after the Sabbath, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark and she saw that the stone blocking the tomb had been moved away. She ran to Peter and the other disciple whom Jesus loved. And she said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb and we don't know where they have laid him."

Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she bent down to look inside; she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head, and the other at the feet. They said, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She answered, "Because they have taken my Lord and I don't know where they have put him."

As she said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not recognize him. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?" She thought it was the gardener and answered him, "Lord, if you have taken him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and remove him."

Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him, "Rabboni"—which means, Master. Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me; you see I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them: I am ascending to my Father, who is your Father, to my God, who is your God."

So Mary of Magdala went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord, and this is what he said to me."

Commentary

Mary of the town of Magdala was one of the twelve women who had followed Jesus from the beginning of his ministry in Galilee. Whoever she was, she is in all the gospel accounts of the resurrection of one of the myrrh-bearing women who go to the tomb. In John's account she sees the empty tomb and assumes that Jesus' body has been stolen and she is bereft and beside herself with grief. She tells Peter and the beloved disciple about the tomb, but does not enter (baptism). She stands outside weeping. Even angels do not shock her into some sense that something is happening and that her obsession with Jesus' body is a dead-end. Even Jesus' voice and questioning of her doesn't register—she is intent on getting his dead body. Her attachment to what she knew of him before crucifixion and resurrection has blinded her to who Jesus really is. She only recognizes her own name in his mouth and is told not to cling to him—he is not her possession. He belongs only to his Father and her Father, to his God and her God—and that is what she is commanded to tell the disciples. Do we cling to our personal ideas of Jesus and miss who the Risen Lord truly is? Is Jesus telling us to let go of the past and believe in a future that we could not imagine?

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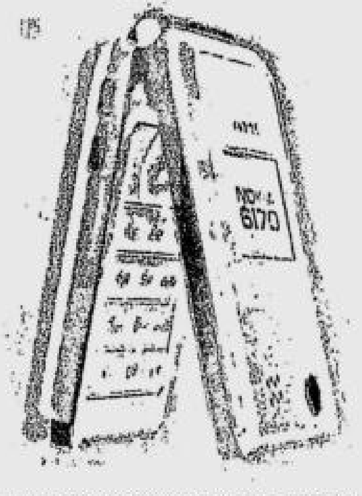

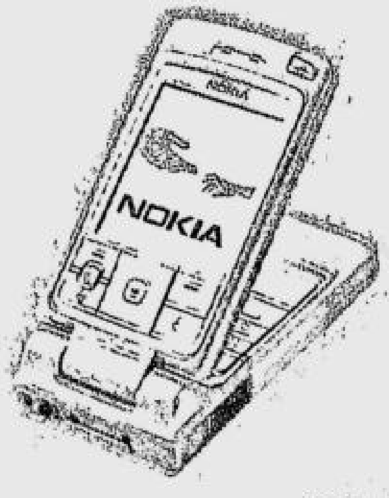

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Young officers vow to oust GMA

From page A1

return to their posts and claim back pay. YOU provided the core officers that took over Makati during the 1989 coup attempt led by then Col. Gregorio Honasan.

The YOU announcement came amid fresh rumors of unrest in the military and reports of recruitment for a coup attempt.

On Wednesday, the National Democratic Front, an umbrella group for communist organizations that include the New People's Army, said it had closed the door to further peace talks with the Arroyo administration and would wait for a new government. *(Story on Page A1.)*

Ms Arroyo is battling for political survival following allegations over the past two months her family received "jueteng" payoffs and revelations of a wiretapped telephone conversation which her opponents said was evidence of fraud in the May 2004 election.

Military and police officials have announced they will remain neutral in the controversy and will stand by constitutional processes.

Vote-rigging

The YOU leveled the same charges of vote-rigging and said Ms Arroyo used recovered ill-gotten wealth of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos and government funds to finance her election victory.

Signatories

"From the first day, the Arroyo government has steered by one direction alone, that of private gain and mindless arrogance. For more than four long, unhappy years, it has drifted, with neither will nor ability to govern, muddling through all our national crises, setting a record of corruption, incompetence and clumsiness," the YOU said.

An Army official who declined to be named confirmed the authenticity of the statement, which was sent to the INQUIRER through a courier. He said the signatories were just "pseudonyms."

The statement was signed by a Lt. Col. Arsenio Alcantara, spokesperson of the YOU Central Command, and authenticated by YOU representatives: Capt. Diego Punongbayan, PA; Maj. Angel Magtanggol, PAF; Commander Salvador Sukdulan, PN; Capt. Brigido Burador, PSC; Chief Inspector Salvador Maglaya, PNP; Lt. Commander Bonifacio Guerrero, Coast Guard and Assistant Director Julian Dimaapi.

Composed of young officers from ranks of lieutenant to lieutenant colonel, the YOU was first organized in 1988 as a "younger version" of the Rebolusyonaryong Alyasang Makabansa (RAM).

The group was previously headed by Capt. Danilo Lim, who is now a brigadier general. In a statement, Lim said he had relinquished leadership of the YOU and had lost contact with the group. He said he had nothing to do with the organization or its activities now.

THE FINAL TOUCH. With the huge flag hoisted up on the wall of the Batasang Pambansa, all's set for the State of the Nation Address of President Arroyo on Monday. JOAN BONDOC

In the 1989 coup, the YOU forces attacked Camp Aguinaldo, and later occupied the commercial district of Makati City. The troops were subdued and marched to Fort Bonifacio with their weapons.

In 1992, however, the YOU, as well as the RAM and the Soldiers of the Filipino People, entered into a peace process with the government. In 1995, it signed a peace pact.

Dinner with GMA

In January, 2002, nearly 100 YOU officers came up with a manifesto saying they would oppose any attempt to overthrow the government. About two dozen of them would later have dinner with the President in Malacañang.

Resurrected from the grave

The release of the YOU statement yesterday virtually resurrected the group from the grave.

An INQUIRER source, however, said that former YOU members had been holding meetings to discuss the accusations that Ms Arroyo had stolen the mandate in May 2004.

The YOU statement said its members decided to scrap the peace accord "after much contemplation of the political, social, economic and national security situations that turned from bad to worse."

"No one can deny that since the 1986 Edsa Revolution our masses still huddled in their hovels, hungry and dispossessed. Our bureaucracy is corrupt and inefficient. There is systems failure everywhere. There is no peace and order," it said.

"Our military is demoralized and shot through with politics. Our judicial system does not work. The guilty go free; the innocent are framed. Our strength is vitiated by corruption and ignorance in high places.

"When we protest, the government responds with arrogance and brutality. Our elections are farces, contests of force and money, or sleight-of-hand spewed by computers," the statement said.

Hello 'Garci' tape nothing

"The 'Hello Garci' tape scandal is nothing compared to the huge sums of money from jueteng, drugs, smuggling and kickbacks that changed hands between the first week of the May 2004 presidential elections and the last weeks of June after the elections at the house of Mrs. Arroyo in La Vista, Quezon City, where bags of money ... were distributed," it said.

Baseless

PNP spokesperson Leopoldo Bataoil said the YOU statement, assuming it came from officers in the PNP and the Armed Forces, was baseless.

"We have been addressing (YOU's) concern long before. We're pushing with our transformation plan," Bataoil said.

"The PNP will not be bothered nor distracted from its peacekeeping and security efforts," Bataoil said. He added that if they were well meaning, the so-called YOU officers should not meddle in politics but instead help out in the PNP and AFP's efforts to reform themselves.

"There are young officers very enthusiastic in the PNP transformation plan," he said. "They are true young officers, who, instead of indulging in political affairs, are helping out in reforming their organizations through the system," Bataoil urged them, if they really authored the statement, to leave politics to politicians."

Reds face arrest as enemies of state

From page A1

of President Macapagal-Arroyo to end the 36-year Marxist insurgency because it was not going to last very long.

Jalandoni said the NDF would rather wait for a new government. In the meantime, the NDF is proposing a "transitional governing council" that would call for new elections within six months.

"Let them wait for a new administration, if it will come. We Filipinos tend to say no the more we are wooed. So if they say scrap it, then let's scrap it," Ermita, a retired general, said.

Stumbling blocks

Ermita said the government, unlike the communists, was serious in ending the longest-running rebellion in Asia.

"They are the ones putting up the stumbling blocks. First they wanted us to take off their label as foreign terrorist organization and then they also rejected our demand to have a ceasefire even temporarily while the talks are going on," he said.

Bristling at Jalandoni's insinuation that the President would not finish her term, Ermita said the communists were acting as though they could defeat the military.

"Just because the government wants a ceasefire, they think our Armed Forces are weak. But how can a force of 7,800 defeat 115,000 soldiers and 110,000 policemen representing the 85 million Filipinos?" he said.

Anakpawis party-list Rep. Rafael Mariano said "the people will hold Ms Arroyo and Secretary Ermita liable for a possible fresh wave of killings of political activists due to Ermita's statement" that the government would go after communist leaders.

He said Ermita's warning was very dangerous because the administration "lumps up legal and democratic people's organizations and the NDF."

More attacks

Now that the NDF has junked peace talks with the government, the New People's Army (NPA) will launch more decisive tactical offensives, said Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal, spokesperson of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP). The NPA is the armed wing of the CPP.

"Definitely, the NDF declaration would mean more damaging attacks of our Red fighters against government forces in the countryside. What we've been offering them is principled peace but this fascist government wants to pursue its total war policy," Rosal said in a mobile phone interview.

Rosal called on the more than 130 guerrilla fronts across the country to gear up for intensified attacks against selected police and military detachments in the countryside.

Plot to bring down government

"Since Red fighters are off limits to mass protest actions, the concentrated attacks of the NPA in the province would be our contribution to the escalating protest actions in Metro Manila to hasten the fall of GMA," he said.

National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales said the NDF's decision to back out of the peace negotiations was part of the communists' new plot to bring down the government.

"We are seriously looking at the activities of the CPP-NDF and their front organizations including their evident involvement in all the power grab attempts," Gonzales said.

He said all elements of the NDF and NPA had been alerted on their new thrust.

Gonzales noted that 83 percent of those attending pickets and rallies against the administration the past few weeks came from CPP front organizations.

Counter-measures

He said the National Security Council would be convened tonight to discuss the government's counter-measures, including possible fresh assaults on communist lairs and a manhunt for the most wanted communists in the country.

On Wednesday, Army soldiers arrested a ranking NPA rebel leader in Bicol, who they said just came from a meeting in Manila that discussed plans on how to infiltrate demonstrators during President Arroyo's State of the Nation Address on Monday.

Rehashed wild tale

"That's a rehashed wild tale. They have used that bogey time and time again," Rosal said.

"Ever since, not a single NPA has been allowed to participate in mass protest actions. A guerrilla's place is in the countryside, not in Ayala or Mendiola," he said.

In anticipation of more rebel attacks, the Philippine National Police has beefed up its defenses.

"It means we will have to enhance our security measures to preempt any plans of the CPP-NPA to wage full-scale terrorism not only in the countryside but also in the urban centers," PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao said.

"We've been through this before," Lomibao said in a text message to the INQUIRER, referring to rebel attacks in the countryside.

Far-flung outposts

During the past two months, NPA rebels have stepped up attacks against far-flung police and military outposts.

In June, at least 10 NPA rebels were killed during a gunfight in Loreto, Agusan del Sur.

Less than a week after, nine soldiers were killed while three others were wounded when suspected communist rebels opened fire on an Army truck in an upland village in Cervantes town in Ilocos Sur.

That same month, some 30 rebels stormed a police outpost in Magpet town in North Cotabato. The rebels pretended to be turning over an arrested person, and then drew their guns and ordered the policemen to hand over their firearms. *With a report from Philip C. Tubeza*

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Susan Roces shows interest in presidency

From page A1

In Davao City, Roces met with supporters of her late husband, heard stories of how he was allegedly cheated in last year's balloting and wiped tears as she was serenaded in advance of her 64th birthday on July 28.

She also keynoted the launching of the Gloria Step Down Now Movement Mindanao, a coalition of progressive groups, academe, lawyers, students and opposition parties.

Asked by a local reporter if she was aspiring to become president, she replied, "*Depende. Hindi lang natin alam kung kailan at paano dahil hindi pa natin napaalis si Gloria* (It depends. We just don't know when and how because we have not gotten rid of Gloria)."

Ms Arroyo, battling her worst political crisis since assuming office in 2001 after Estrada was swept from power by massive public protests, has denied manipulating last year's ballot and repeatedly rejected calls to step down.

She has said she is ready to face impeachment when Congress convenes next week. She also has announced a "truth commission" to separately probe the charges.

1,000 days

Organizers said the council would stay in power only for 1,000 days until it had paved the way for the holding of clean and credible elections.

"The Unity for Truth and Justice believes the ultimate solution and alternative government should be elected in a proper, free, fair but above all credible election and there is no way we can hold elections right now under the current system," said Edicio de la Torre of the La Liga Policy Institute.

He said no one person, no matter how credible, could lead the country, but there were leaders enjoying the support of a definite sector who could band together to form a "working majority" and comprise the caretaker council.

The council would seek the reorganization of the Commission on Elections, modernization of the system of counting and the cleanup of the voters' list, among other things, according to the group's primer, which also pointed out that there will "most probably" be a need for Charter change.

The coalition is comprised of forces identified with Estrada, Poe, Villanueva as well as student leaders and civil society groups.

Signatories to the group's manifesto, aside from De la Torre and Morales, include Luis Sison, Bangon Pilipinas spokesperson; lawyers Frank Chavez and Liwayway Vinzons Chato; Diocese of Cubao priest Emmanuel Alparce; University of the Philippines Student Regent Ken Ramos; De La Salle University Taft, Manila Student Council executive secretary Kate Lim; Amina Rasul, Muslim peace advocate; former Ambassador Roy Señeres; street leader Ronald Lumbao, and actor Rez Cortez.

De la Torre said the coalition was not an opposition undertaking but a means to help the nation.

Bridge to a wish

"This is not a partisan project of the opposition but hopefully a bridge between the current very divided and polarized political order toward something closer to our wish, a nation not perfectly united but at least accepting of the democratic principle that majority will rule while minority rights will be respected," Dela Torre said.

According to the coalition's primer, which was presented by Bangon Kababaihan chair Patricia Sison, the caretaker council should be made up of those who actively participated in the movement to remove Ms Arroyo and should be credible and competent.

The members of the council should also be banned from running in the elections. They will be chosen through nominations. Organizers could not say immediately how many members the caretaker council would have, or how they would be elected.

ROCES

Other names who came up during the straw vote were Muslim leader Datu Akmad Bayam, form0.er University of the Philippines president Francisco Nemenzo, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, former Moro rebel leader Nur Misuari, former Solicitor General Frank Chavez, ex-President Corazon Aquino, Jesuit priest Joaquin Bernas, Sen. Panfilo Lacson, UP Prof. Randy David, ex-Congressman Didagen Dilangalen and former head of the National Labor Relations Commission Roy Señeres.

The group also said their proposal was not unconstitutional.

Not unconstitutional

"Since it is not yet the product of an election, it is extra-constitutional, but it is not unconstitutional. Its full constitutionality will be covered by a transition constitution, like the Freedom Constitution of the Cory Aquino government in 1986," it said in the primer.

Chavez also said Aquino was put into power via extra-constitutional means, but her rule was subsequently legitimized.

"The Supreme Court further held that revolution is 'an inherent right of the people to cast out their rulers, change their policy or effect radical reforms in their system of government or institutions by force or a general uprising when the legal or constitutional methods of making change have proved inadequate or are so obstructed as to be unavailable," Chavez said.

Morales, one of the convenors of the proposed interim government, said it is "the best alternative to the current situation."

No to Noli

The organizers also rejected the possibility of constitutional succession by Vice President Noli de Castro.

"A simple succession will mean the continuation of the same current administration, minus GMA," said Sison, another convenor, referring to Ms Arroyo by her initials.

Breathing space needed

Numerous opposition parties and groups nationwide have demanded the President's resignation, many of them supporters of Estrada and Poe, Ms Arroyo's main challenger in the May 2004 election, who died of a stroke in December.

But the largest opposition rally so far, which drew about 40,000 people last week, was only a fraction of the massive "people power" uprisings that toppled late dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986 and Estrada in 2001.

Morales said opposition groups would welcome support from the military, but will not allow a military junta.

"As far as we are concerned, this is an option that will give us breathing time, breathing space to somehow ensure a better political culture," he said. *With reports from Germelina A. Lacorte, Anthony S. Allada, Dennis Jay C. Santos, Jeffrey M. Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau, AP*

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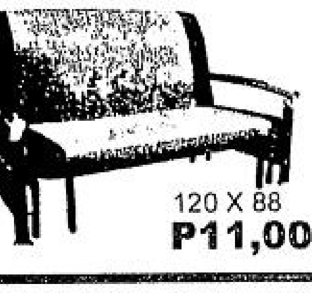

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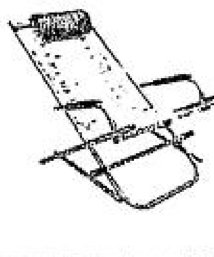

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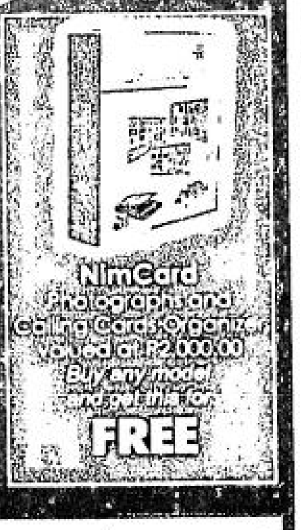

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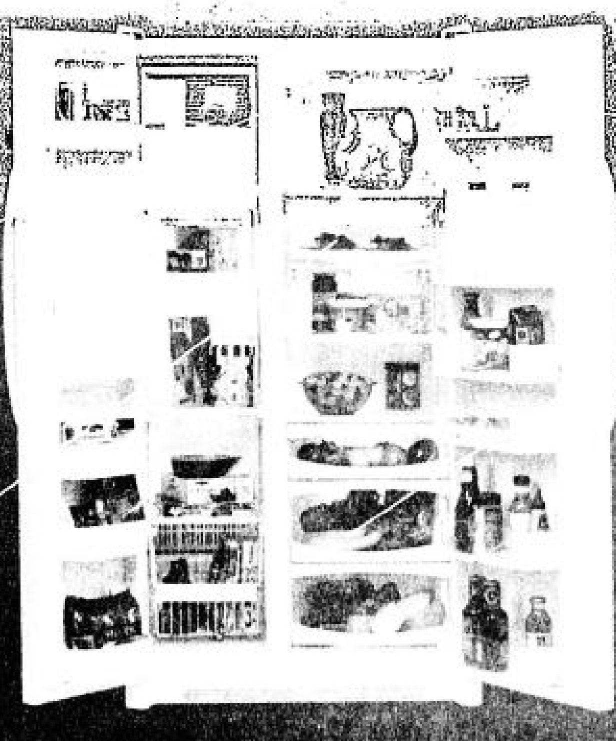

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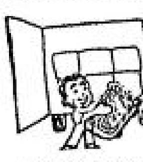

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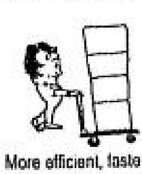

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Iraq insurgents 'effective, adaptable,' Rumsfeld says

WASHINGTON—A Pentagon assessment has concluded that Iraqi insurgents remain "effective, adaptable and intent on carrying out attacks" on Iraqi officials and civilians, US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said Wednesday.

The US Congress requires the Pentagon to report periodically on progress made in creating Iraqi security forces and stabilizing the country. Rumsfeld said the first of the reports would be submitted to Congress Thursday or Friday.

Previewing its findings, Rumsfeld told reporters the report will say attacks on infrastructure have declined since the January 30 elections in Iraq, and week-to-week incidents are off from their pre-election peak.

He said elections to ratify a new Constitution and for a new national assembly remain on schedule, and recent polls show rising confidence in the future among Iraqis.

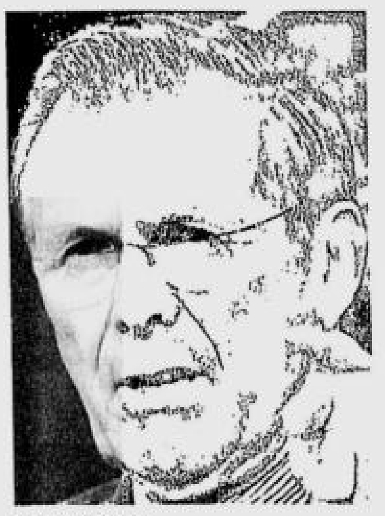
But the report also will set forth a "candid assessment of the challenges," he said.

"Among them, though they've suffered numerous setbacks, terrorists remain effective, adaptable, and intent on carrying out attacks on Iraqi civilians and Iraqi officials," he said.

"Extremists continue to try to foment tension, ethnic strife, and indeed even civil war between Sunni and Shia (Shiites) through murders and attacks on religious sites," the defense chief said.

"Countries such as Syria and Iran remain notably unhelpful in assisting Iraq, securing its borders from foreign invaders, and unemployment remains a concern though increasing business investment should alleviate that problem," he said.

Rumsfeld acknowledged that insurgent attacks have grown more lethal.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"Yet despite their headline grabbing mass murders, the extremists are failing," he said. "Indeed, the murder of Iraqi citizens and children appear to be hardening the majority of the Iraqi people's commitment to defeat al-Qaida and to build a better country."

The Iraqi security forces now number 171,500 Iraqi, well in excess of the 138,000 US troops in Iraq, Rumsfeld said.

But he admitted that they comprise a wide variety of types of forces and skill levels.

"It's made up of apples and oranges. So it isn't useful to try to oversimplify," he said.

Rumsfeld and Gen. Peter Pace, the vice chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the report's assessment of the Iraqi security forces' weaknesses would be kept secret although members of Congress will be briefed.

"The idea of discussing weaknesses if you will—strengths and weaknesses—this unit has a poor chain of command, or these forces are not as effective because their morale is down—that would be mindless," Rumsfeld said.

The effectiveness of the Iraqi security forces is key to plans for reducing the size of the US ground force in Iraq.

Training such a force to replace coalition troops has become a crucial task for the US military, but progress has been difficult to measure.

Early efforts were dashed when the security forces collapsed in the face of insurgent attack. *AFP*

A CHAIR lies on the dried-up bottom of the Maria Cristina reservoir in Castellon, eastern Spain on June 17. After the driest winter in Spain since 1945, farmers are facing sharp losses in production and drought-stricken reservoirs across the country are at alarmingly low levels. REUTERS

2 suicide car bombings, attacks kill 14 in Iraq

BAGHDAD, Iraq—Two suicide car bombings, along with a string of other attacks, in and around Baghdad Thursday have left 14 people dead, police and army officials said.

A suicide car bomber rammed into an Iraqi army checkpoint south of Baghdad, killing five soldiers in Mahmoudiyah, about 30 km south of the capital. Several other soldiers were injured, according to army Lt. Odai al-Zeiadi.

A second Iraqi army checkpoint in the southern Baghdad suburb of Bueitha was also hit by a suicide car bomber, killing one soldier, al-Zeiadi said. Six other soldiers were injured, he said.

Unidentified gunmen assassinated three members of the Qadisiyah provincial council as they were heading to an Internet cafe in the western neighborhood of Khadhra, said police 1st Lt. Mohammad Al-Hiyali.

In Baghdad's Shiite enclave of Sadr City, an employee of the Ministry of Trade was killed in a drive-by shooting, said police 1st Lt. Talib Naim.

"Salman Lazim Shikara was heading to work when gunmen in a speeding car sprayed him with machine guns inside his car," Naim said.

Explosives were thrown into the compound of a British security firm in western Yarmouk neighborhood, killing one Iraqi guard and injuring two others, said police Maj. Falah Al-Mihamadawi. Witnesses said the armed attackers had driven up in a speeding car.

Meanwhile, a roadside bomb targeting an Iraqi patrol detonated at dawn in Latifiyah, killing three and injuring another three soldiers, said a Babil provincial police spokesperson.

Latifiyah is located about 30 km south of Baghdad in a Sunni insurgent-heavy area known as the Triangle of Death. *AP*

Drought-hit southern Europe battles blazes

MADRID—Southern Europe, in the grip of a heat wave, was on the alert Wednesday as fires raged on in parts of Spain, Portugal and Italy, claiming 13 lives and destroying thousands of hectares of brush and forest.

The most severe damage was wrought in Spain, which is suffering from its worst drought since 1945.

A forest fire killed 11 volunteer firemen and burnt some 13,000 hectares of pine trees on Saturday in the central region of Guadalajara.

Believed to have been sparked by a campers' barbecue, the fire was largely brought under control on Wednesday after an all-night struggle. It still blazed on one front but was encircled by an eight-km barrier.

Funerals for the 11 firefighters—aged 24 to 52—were held on Wednesday.

The drought showed no sign of letting up, and temperatures in the center of the country on Wednesday hit 38 degrees Celsius.

Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero expressed his condolences to the families of the victims and called a special government meeting for Friday to adopt measures to deal with the fires.

He promised "strict" measures and heavy penalties for those who caused the fires.

In Portugal, which has also been experiencing its most severe dry spell since the 1940s, some 30,000 hectares of vegetation have gone up in smoke since the beginning of the year.

A man in his 60s died on Wednesday near the village of Alvaiazere, some 160 km northeast of the capital Lisbon as he tried to escape the flames, local officials said.

More than 3,000 firefighters backed by water-dropping planes and dozens of vehicles were deployed across the country to combat more than 20 wildfires.

The largest blaze raged near the central mountain town of Seia, destroying several homes and cars, and forcing the evacuation of four nearby villages.

The country's busiest highway linking Lisbon to Porto was temporarily shut down on Wednesday for the second day in a row.

"The meteorological conditions are bad, it is very hot, it is very windy. All of this has made the battle against the blaze difficult," the mayor of Seia, Eduardo Brito, told news radio TSF.

"Extreme" drought is affecting 80 percent of the country, notably in the southern Alentejo and Algarve regions, while in the rest of the country the situation is classified as "serious" by Portugal's Water Institute.

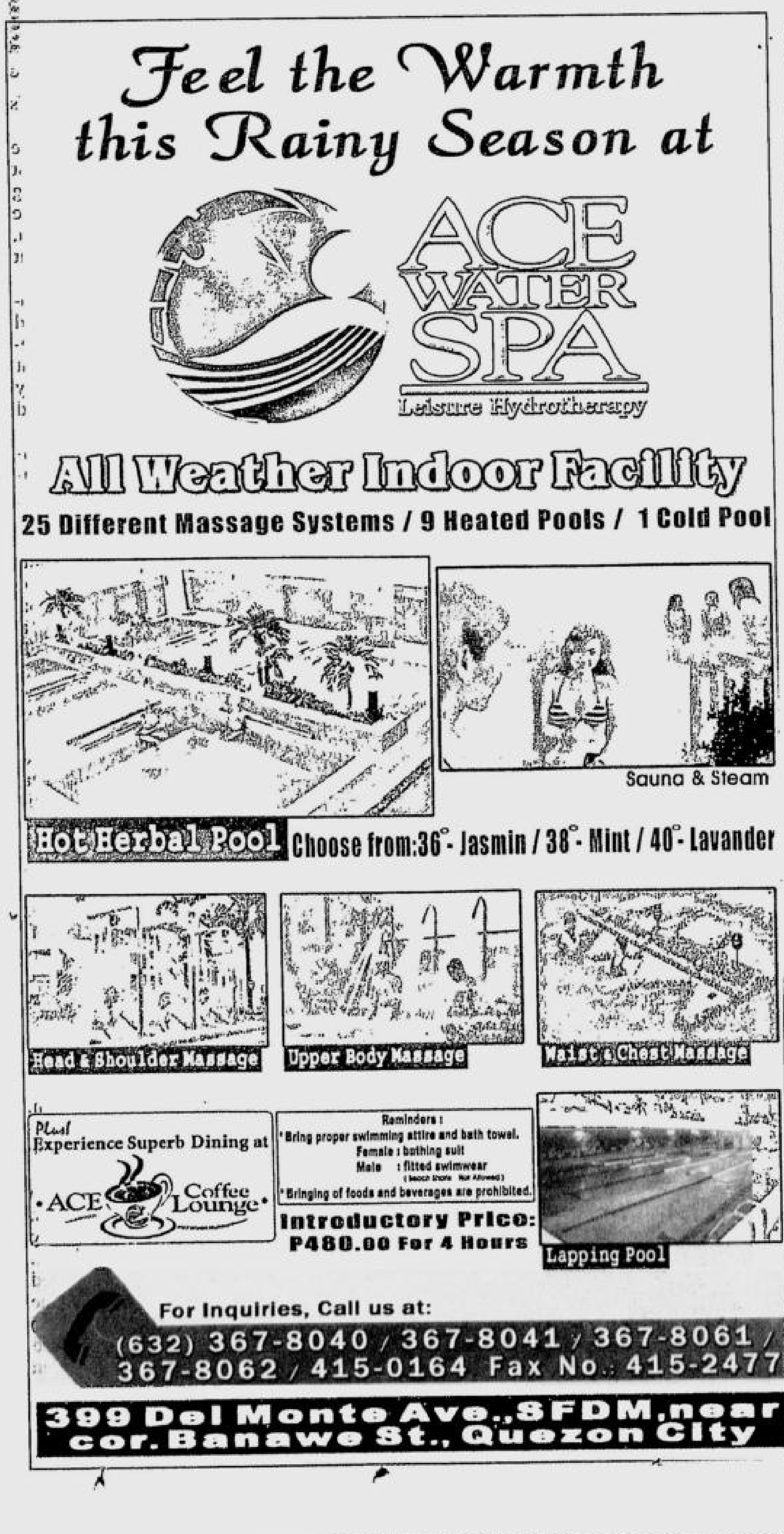
The government has launched a public awareness campaign urging people to conserve water.

In Italy, nearly 200 fires were recorded across the country between Saturday and Tuesday, mainly on islands and in the central and southern regions.

The Italian authorities reported 82 fires on Tuesday alone. More than 30 blazes occurred in the southern region of Calabria, where a 70-year-old man died while trying to put out a blaze near his property.

"This is July. The wind is rather strong and this constitutes a major risk," the head of Italy's civil protection authority Guido Bertolaso said Tuesday.

A state of alert has been declared on the island of Sardinia after a blaze devastated farms, fields and warehouses. The full extent of the damage was not yet known. *AFP*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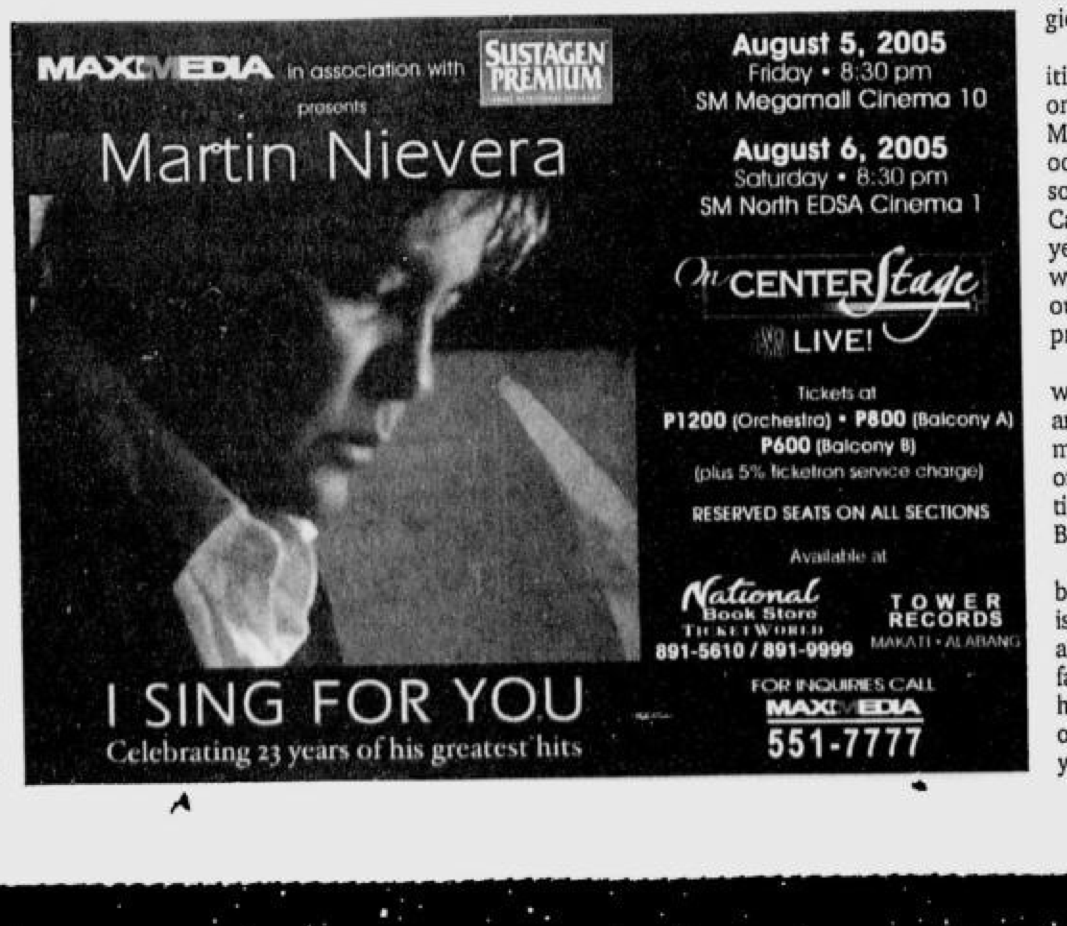
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Pakistan grills suspected brains of London blasts

LONDON—An alleged British al-Qaida chief linked to the London bombings was being questioned by police in Pakistan who say he telephoned the four suspect suicide bombers just hours before the attack, a report said Thursday.

Security officials in Islamabad said they were holding 228 suspects, but denied media reports that Haroon Rashid Aswat was among the detainees.

For its part Scotland Yard and the Home Office declined to comment on the latest reports about the investigation into Britain's worst terrorist attack, which ripped through London's subway network and a bus exactly two weeks ago.

The respected Times newspaper, however, reported that the 30-year-old suspected terror mastermind was arrested during one of many raids on Islamic religious schools, known as a madrasahs.

"We believe this man had a crucial part to play in what happened in London," it cited a senior Pakistani source as saying.

The Times, repeatedly citing anonymous intelligence sources, said Aswat was understood to have been posing as a businessman and using a false name.

It said he was picked up in a raid at a madrasah at Sargodha, 144 km from Islamabad, by Pakistani intelligence officials and flown to a prison in the capital, the daily said in a front page article.

Britain's Scotland Yard had been hunting the man, who is believed to come from the same West Yorkshire town in northern England as one of bombers, since he flew out of Britain just hours after the July 7 attacks on the London subway and a London bus, according to the Times.

Raising suspicions, it claimed that the suspect arrived in Britain a fortnight before the bombings to orchestrate final planning for the attack. He allegedly spoke to the suicide team on his mobile phone a few hours before the four men blew themselves up and killed 52 other people.

"Intelligence sources told The Times that during his stay Aswat visited the home towns of all four bombers as well as selecting targets in London," the newspaper said.

It noted that Aswat has been known to Western intelligence services for more than three years after the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) accused him of trying to set up al-Qaida training camps in the United States.

"Security sources" also informed the newspaper that he had been armed with a number of guns, wearing an explosive belt and carrying around 17,000 pounds ($30,000 dollars, 24,000 euros) in cash when he was arrested.

"He had a British passport and was about to flee across the border to Afghanistan," the newspaper said.

Two weeks after four alleged suicide bombers blew themselves up on subway trains and a bus, Britain's security forces have yet to identify officially a possible mentor or group responsible for Britain's worst terrorist atrocity.

But they have named three British Muslims of Pakistani origin, Mohammed Sidique Khan, 30, Shehzad Tanweer, 22, and 18-year-old Hasib Hussain, and Jamaican-born Muslim convert Germaine Lindsay, 19, as the presumed bombers. *AFP*

Indonesia pledges firm action after first human deaths from bird flu

JAKARTA—Indonesia Thursday promised firm measures to wipe out bird flu after announcing its first human deaths from the virus, and admitted it should have culled more infected poultry to stem the disease.

The government said Wednesday that a man and his two young daughters who died this month just southwest of Jakarta had tested positive for the H5N1 strain of the bird flu virus that has killed 55 other people in Southeast Asia.

There had been an outbreak in April of bird flu at a pig and chicken farm 15 km from where the family lived, but only limited culling was carried out there, Health Minister Siti Fadillah Supari said.

It was "possible" they had been infected by the virus from the farm in Tangerang district, she told a press conference.

"(The poultry and pigs) should have been destroyed but it wasn't the case at that time because some of them were vaccinated," Supari said, pledging to step up measures to fight the disease.

"We and the agriculture ministry will take firm action, including culling," Supari said.

Other action would include close surveillance of people who may have been in infected areas, preparing hospitals nationwide to treat patients and an information campaign about the virus, she said.

Agriculture Minister Anton Apriyanto said his ministry was allocating 104 billion rupiah ($10.7 million) in emergency funds to tackle the disease, the state Antara news agency reported.

He said officials would destroy animals at two pig farms in Tangerang on Sunday and the government would compensate the owners.

The government has said at least 9.5 million fowl had died since bird flu was first officially confirmed in Indonesia early last year.

Supari said there had been outbreaks in 21 provinces since 2003, with the latest ones taking place in North Sumatra, Jambi and Banten provinces. Jambi is in Sumatra while Banten encompasses Tangerang.

The government launched a massive vaccination drive following the outbreak but it has been criticized for carrying out only limited culling.

After tests in Hong Kong confirmed that Iwan Siswara Rafei and his two daughters—aged one and 9—had died from bird flu, the government urged the public not to panic, saying there was no evidence of transmission between people.

About 300 people who had contact with Rafei have been under observation—including his wife, another daughter and the family's housemaid—and they have shown no signs of sickness, Supari said.

Last month the health ministry reported the country's first human case of bird flu in a farm worker but the man is healthy and shows no symptoms. *AFP*

INDONESIAN workers collect dead chickens suspected of being infected with the bird flu virus in a poultry farm in Banyumas of Central Java province, July 21. REUTERS

Obesity rising rapidly in developing nations

TOURS, France—Obesity is increasing rapidly in developing countries greatly increasing the risk of heart disease and diabetes, an international population conference was told Thursday.

"Even in countries such as India, which is typically known for high prevalence of under nutrition, a significant proportion of overweight and obese people now coexist with those who are undernourished," said Praween Agrawal of the International Institute of Population Sciences.

"This epidemic has emerged almost unnoticed in our society," said Agrawal, who released the results of a new study of women in India which confirmed the trend.

"In the past, governments in many developing countries with high levels of under nutrition and a high prevalence of communicable diseases have paid little attention to the problems of overweight and obesity."

Praween's study of 90,000 women aged between 15 and 49 from across India found that among women who began at a normal weight, 31 percent became overweight and seven percent obese within four years, while 60 percent of those retained their normal weight. Of those women already overweight 29 percent had become obese.

The Indian national health survey of 1998-99 found six percent of women aged between 15 to 49 years old in urban India were obese and 18 percent overweight.

"Though the pattern of obesity is still in its early stages in India, compared to Western countries, it nevertheless needs to be tackled before it reaches epidemic proportions," said Agrawal. *AFP*

Plume's name marked secret in CIA memo

WASHINGTON—A covert CIA agent's name was marked as secret in a confidential memo delivered to the State Department a week before the name was leaked to the press in 2003, The Washington Post said Thursday.

The memo is part of a federal investigation into whether White House officials, including Deputy Chief of Staff Karl Rove, leaked the covert agent's name to the press—a criminal offense punishable with up to 10 years in jail.

Rove, who admits he spoke with two reporters before the leak, denies having exposed CIA agent Valerie Plame after her husband Joseph Wilson criticized administration claims about Saddam Hussein's alleged nuclear weapons program.

President George W. Bush has said he would fire anyone in his administration found to have committed a crime in connection with the leak.

New York Times reporter Judith Miller was jailed earlier this month after refusing to reveal her source, for a story that she never even wrote, to a grand jury probing the political scandal.

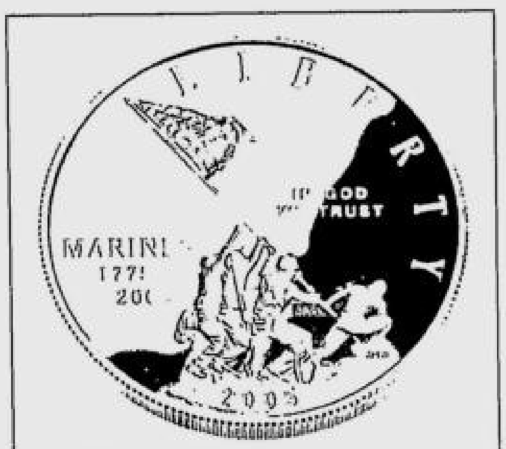
At the heart of the political scandal, which has Democrats clamoring for Rove's resignation, lies the confidential memo and the question who in the Bush administration read it and were they aware Plame's identity was marked secret.

Sources who described the memo to The Washington Post said a paragraph in it identifying Plame as Valerie Wilson, the wife of the former US ambassador, was clearly marked to show it contained classified material.

Anyone reading the paragraph, the sources said, should have been aware it contained secret information, although that designation was not specifically attached to Plame's name and did not describe her status as covert.

The memo, written by an analyst in the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and dealing mostly with intelligence experts' belief that Saddam Hussein had not sought to purchase uranium in Niger, was delivered to then Secretary of State Colin Powell on July 7, 2003 as he boarded a plane to Africa with Bush. *AFP*

AMBASSADOR Wilson REUTERS



SPECIAL DOLLAR
A 1945 photograph taken at Iwo Jima was memorialized in a commemorative coin released July 20, celebrating the 230th anniversary of the Marine Corps. AP

Ring forging immigration papers, SS cards in several US cities busted

DENVER—Federal authorities said they have disrupted a far-flung counterfeiting ring that makes hard-to-detect forgeries of immigration and identification documents, and they hope to extradite the alleged leader from Mexico.

Authorities said the fake Social Security cards, driver's licenses and other documents are so sophisticated that only a crime lab can distinguish them from the real thing.

An indictment accuses Pedro Castorena-Ibarra of Guadalajara, Mexico, of running a franchise-style operation with cells in more than a dozen cities across the United States. Cell leaders pay a "franchise fee" to operate the business, said Marcy Forman, director of investigations for US Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

A federal grand jury indicted Castorena-Ibarra, 42, on five counts of fraud and conspiracy last week. Acting US Attorney Bill Leone said federal authorities will work with Mexican authorities to extradite Castorena-Ibarra, who faces a maximum 65 years in prison if convicted on all counts. Leone said a 20-year sentence would be more likely.

Also indicted was Francisco Javier Miranda-Espinosa, who is accused of running the Denver cell of the counterfeiting operation. He was arrested on immigration charges in January at his apartment in suburban Aurora, where authorities found fake documents and equipment to make them.

The indictment accuses Miranda-Espinosa of fraud, conspiracy and identity theft. *AP*

'Normal people' built Auschwitz ovens which enabled mass murder

By Alexandra Hudson

BERLIN—Hartmut Topf has spent a lifetime trying to comprehend why family firm Topf & Soehne agreed 64 years ago to build crematoria for Auschwitz and enable industrialized mass murder.

He knows there can be no satisfactory answer.

A new Berlin exhibition sheds light on Topf, one of countless largely forgotten small firms to provide the technical know-how for the Holocaust. It tries to trace why this eastern German furnace maker became entangled with the Nazis, despite sensing what the ovens were being used for.

FORMER Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin looks into a furnace at the Dachau concentration camp memorial site in west Germany in this Sept. 8, 1987 photo. REUTERS

Fresh archive evidence shows the brothers who ran Topf, cousins of Hartmut's father, were not fanatic Nazis and faced no personal risk for declining orders for furnaces from Hitler's elite SS guards.

Nor were they in it for the money. Crematoria and ventilation systems for the concentration camps comprised only 2 percent of their turnover, and the SS paid late.

Rather a picture emerges of a firm of meticulous technocrats, motivated by the "challenge" of perfecting and installing incinerators capable of burning thousands of corpses daily, and blinded by the detail to their moral crime.

"It is unthinkable," says 70-year-old Hartmut Topf.

"It makes me furious that these were my relatives ... they were no anti-Semites, no evil Nazis. They were normal people, in a completely normal firm, which only makes it harder to understand," he adds.

A fifth of the 6 million Jews murdered during the Holocaust were killed at Auschwitz, along with homosexuals, Gypsies, Polish political prisoners and Soviet prisoners of war.

The Nazi death camps employed hundreds of contractors to provide equipment and expertise for the "Final Solution."

While the collaboration of German industrial giants such as IG Farben, which provided deadly Zyklon B for the gas chambers, is well documented, the role of smaller firms and the extent to which they escaped unpunished after World War II has faded from view.

"I was proud as a child because Topf was a successful, world-renowned firm," Hartmut Topf explains.

This pride evaporated when as an 11-year-old he watched footage of the camps in cinema newsreels, and saw the "Topf" name plaque, borne by all the firm's products, on the crematoria of Auschwitz and Buchenwald.

Later Topf determined to establish the details and atone for the past.

"I went to Auschwitz and greeted an old man there, telling him my name was Topf. 'Your name has a bad ring here,' he told me. 'I know. That is why I am here,' I answered."

Topf & Sons was founded by Hartmut's great-grandfather in 1878, in Erfurt, as a customized incinerator and malting equipment manufacturer. The firm was close to the Ettersberg hill, later the site of Buchenwald concentration camp.

With the expansion of cremation in Germany as a burial rite in the 1920s, the firm's ambitious chief engineer Kurt Pruefer pioneered furnaces which complied with strict regulations on preserving the dignity of the body.

Naked flame could not come in contact with the coffin, and cremation was to be smoke and odor free.

Aware of the firm's reputation, the SS approached Pruefer in 1939, with an order for a crematorium for Buchenwald after an epidemic killed hundreds of prisoners.

Pruefer designed crematoria resembling incinerators for animal carcasses, knowing the dead were not to be burned individually or in coffins, nor were ashes to be separated.

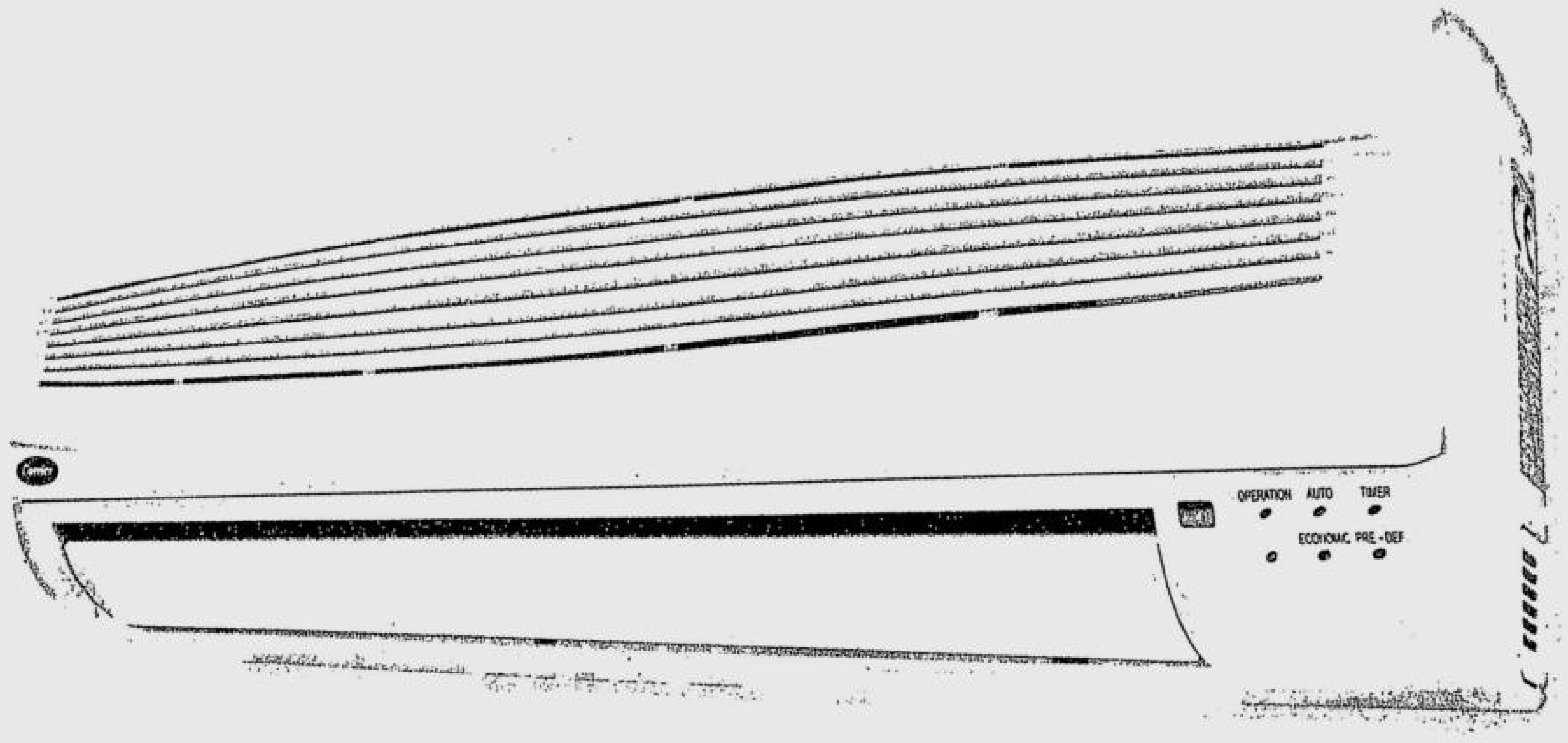
The orders came rolling in, as Pruefer strived to create more efficient furnaces. Firm documents in the exhibition prove he visited Auschwitz several times and saw his ovens close to "the bathhouses for special operations."

Rather than feel disgust, Pruefer merely deliberated the practical problems of extermination. Transcripts of his 1948 interrogations by Russian forces show he never felt remorse.

"Pruefer threatened to resign at one point over lack of salary, they (Ernst-Wolfang and Ludwig Topf) should have let him go ... but they didn't. They continued to show this stupid loyalty to the regime," Topf says.

After the Nazis abandoned Auschwitz in 1945 Pruefer even suggested to the SS they could reassemble parts of the furnaces in Mauthausen concentration camp in Austria. *Reuters*

SPLITS by CA



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OPINION

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A shot at the truth

EDITORIAL

DEPENDING on one's point of view, the country either has an emerging consensus or an ever-deepening confusion over the establishment of a "Truth Commission" to determine the nature and veracity of the accusations against President Macapagal-Arroyo in connection with her victory in the 2004 election. Consensus because the truth agency has, after all, been suggested by respected sectors such as the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, University of Santo Tomas and Bishops-Businessmen's Conference. Confusion because there are questions about the commission's composition, conduct and powers.

Perhaps the first question is whether what the President has in mind is in fact what the bishops had in mind when they mentioned the possibility of a Truth Commission to get to the bottom of the issues hounding the presidency. Malacañang has said it's more predisposed to call the commission a fact-finding one, similar to the commissions that looked into the 1989 and 2003 coup attempts whose findings were basically recommendatory and prospective. If so, the inquiry that Malacañang envisions would gloss over the demand of the bishops for a commission that will determine accountability, or in the language of the UST statement, "ferret out the truth, establish culpability, and impose sanctions and restitution." Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales said as much in his pastoral letter: "Those who seek forgiveness should be ready to be called to accountability."

Of course, legal experts have cited possible legal obstacles to its functions. But none of them has reasonably argued that establishing the body is against the Constitution or the law. The bishops themselves mentioned the commission as one of several options within the bounds of the Constitution to resolve the crisis, aside from impeachment and resignation.

But will the commission undermine the impeachment that Congress is set to undertake? The President herself has indicated she would support an impeachment process so she could clear herself. And judging by the numbers she can muster in Congress, she might yet have her cake and eat it too. So does she still need to humor the bishops and Catholic universities by agreeing to a Truth Commission? Why risk her political fortunes by going along with the commission proposal?

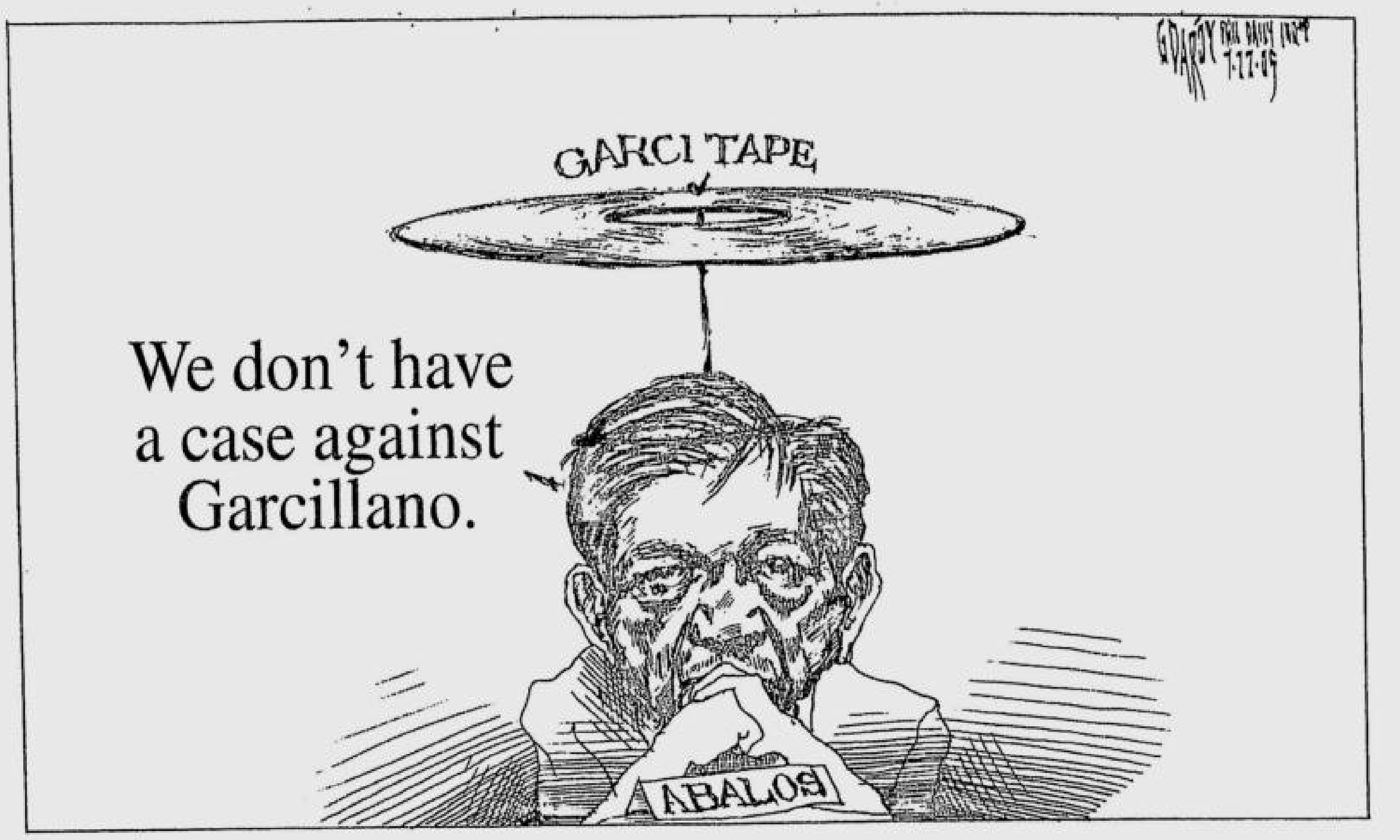
Some of her critics warn that the commission may be a ploy to escape accountability if she resorts to dictating its conclusions and recommendations. The best insurance against that is to have the commission established independently of Malacañang. The bishops would like to have an "independent" inquiry. The UST statement said the commission should be established by "non-partisan sectors of wide social acceptance like the CBCP." Why can't the CBCP itself form the commission and define its composition? The President could turn over to the CBCP the formation of the commission and submit to its authority.

Former President Fidel Ramos said the Truth Commission would only contribute to the confusion and the uncertainty of the country, after noting that the impeachment proceeding would already be problematic. But the fact is that politics and politicking have only worsened the country's instability. And impeachment, as what we have experienced during the trial of President Joseph Estrada, is a thoroughly political process that would hardly stabilize the nation, much less establish the truth.

Non-political sectors, in fact, have proposed the Truth Commission after noting that in the raging political war, truth seems to have been taken hostage by narrow and selfish partisan interests. That is why there's a need to, in the language of the UST statement, "depoliticize the truth and truth-seeking."

The more pertinent questions involve the authority of the commission, its power and ultimately its effectiveness. The statement by individual signatories from the Ateneo de Manila (which is not the official position of the university, since it chooses not to issue one) has pointed to the establishment of a "Truth Commission along the South African model." Does this mean a commission that merely enjoins those who have sinned to come clean without being held accountable for their crimes? Can this be reconciled with the position of the bishops?

All of these questions aside, the Truth Commission offers a multisectoral and non-political mechanism to get to the bottom of the matter and resolve the crisis. The crisis is one of credibility. The commission offers an opportunity to straighten out the truth. In the absence of better ideas, it deserves serious consideration by all parties.


GDAROY PHIL DAILY INQ 7-22-05
GARCI TAPE
We don't have a case against Garcillano.
ABALOS

No to Truth Commission, no to Cha-cha

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

STUDENTS in Catholic schools are taught very early in life that the Pope is "infallible" when he speaks on religious matters. I don't think this is true. But even if it were, I don't think it extends to bishops, especially if they decide on political, not religious, matters.

And the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines is dead wrong on the creation of a Truth Commission to probe into charges that President Macapagal-Arroyo was involved in electoral fraud in the last elections. The commission will not end the crisis that is sowing chaos on the nation. On the contrary, such a commission would only be more divisive and exacerbate the crisis.

The commission has not even been created yet and already people are criticizing it. Legal experts, some of whom participated in the writing of the present Constitution, say that a commission to determine whether there was cheating in the last elections would be unconstitutional. The Charter gives that job to the Presidential Electoral Tribunal (PET).

In the first place, the bishops had said in an earlier statement that the process of replacing the President should be "constitutional." But the solution that they recommended—the Truth Commission—is itself unconstitutional. On the other hand, people power is constitutional by virtue of the provision that says "sovereignty resides in the people and all government authority emanates from them." And by virtue of the precedents of People Power I and II that ousted two presidents and which were upheld by the Supreme Court.

In the second place, a Truth Commission would not be credible. Its members will be appointed by the President who is the very person they will investigate. Who would believe such a commission?

In the third place, the commission would be toothless. It cannot force witnesses to testify. It cannot subpoena documentary evidence. And it cannot enforce its decision.

Suppose it finds the President guilty and said she should vacate the presidency, but she refuses to step down. What can the commission do? Nothing. Its findings are not binding.

Since the commission cannot force the President to quit, it is left with only one thing to do: acquit her. But then who would believe and agree with it?

The bishops' idea was to have the President impeached if the commission finds her guilty. Isn't that what Congress is already planning to do?

If the commission's findings contradict the findings of Congress, whose decision would be followed? Of course it should be Congress. So what is the commission for? It would only foment more confusion and more divisiveness among the people. Instead of ending the crisis, the commission would worsen it.

In the fourth place, what truth is it going to find out? Is there still anybody, besides the Malacañang factotums desperately holding on to their jobs, who does not know that it was GMA on the tapes, that she talked to Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano while the votes were being counted, and that they talked about increasing her margin over FPJ by one million votes? So what else will the commission find out?

In the fifth place, a commission will only delay the resolution of the case. As some critics have said, it is a diversionary tactic, in the same way that former President Ramos' proposal for a Charter change is a shameless diversionary tactic. In fact, considering how quickly she accepted the commission idea, malicious minds will think that it was Malacañang itself that coaxed some bishops to push the Truth Commission idea to give her more time. It can be compared to throwing the turtle into the river.

But the longer the crisis is unresolved, the worse it will be for us.

If we really want to find out quickly if GMA cheated or not, why not ask the PET, the only body authorized by the Constitution to resolve presidential electoral protests, to recount the electoral returns for GMA and FPJ at the same time that it is counting the returns for Loren Legarda and Vice President Noli de Castro? I discussed this in detail in last Wednesday's column.

After all, if GMA really did not cheat as she claims, what is there to be afraid of? She should ask for such a recount to remove the pressure on her to step down as quickly as possible. That is, if she did not cheat. But if she did, you can be sure that she would find excuses not to and even block attempts to recount, as her minions in Congress did during the canvassing of votes. By her actions we will find out for sure, better than a Truth Commission will, whether or not she cheated.

* * *

The other diversionary tactic is the proposal of Ramos to change the Constitution and the system of government. Not only is it a diversionary tactic but an opportunistic ploy to get back in power as prime minister.

Of course Ramos denied, after the opportunism was exposed, having any ambition to be prime minister. But that does not guarantee that he won't run for membership in Parliament in his district in Pangasinan and then, "without his campaigning for it," being elected prime minister by the other MPs. This would not be the first time a politician breaks his or her promise.

Besides, changing the Constitution and the system of government will not solve our problems if we don't change the politicians, too. Even if we have a parliamentary system, the same politicians we have now in Congress will be elected to Parliament. And I think that's our main problem.

We keep changing the Constitution (we have already changed it four times) but not the politicians.

Starbucks and the class struggle

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

WHEN political analysts ask, "Where are the middle forces, they who triumphed at the two Edsas?", I am tempted to answer: "At Starbucks, drinking an iced venti latte."

Now, don't get me wrong. I love the coffee they serve at Starbucks, and I give them eternal credit for bringing good decaf beans to Manila, where until then waiters thought that decaf had to be "instant" powder. They are an exemplar of globalization teaching us how much value we are prepared to pay for a well-made product. And, no, I do not insult the great crimson revolution when I suggest that the class struggle that was supposed to be won in the countrysides can now be silently waged over the barrista's counter.

It's just that whenever I enter Starbucks and see students sipping P100 cups of cappuccino, I wonder: At the very least, their daily *baon* must be P250 (if they squeeze *merienda*, lunch and transportation in the *sukli*), which must be larger than the daily food budget of entire families in this country, where I am told there is a high estimate of four million families eating less than three meals a day, and those meals consist mainly of noodles from Lucky Me and Payless. This suggests the mindset of the so-called middle forces, to which I suppose a university teacher like me belongs.

One: We have been numbed to absolute levels of poverty. Normally we as human beings recoil when we see fellow humans eating off trash cans, where one man's refuse becomes another family's feast. We should be shocked to see slum dwellers, women bathing on busy city streets with barely a *tapis* to lend them a veneer of privacy and dignity. There is a line, a standard of decency, below which human beings cannot live. When that line is crossed, it is we who stand idly by who must feel chastised. It is our shame, not the garbage man's or the bathing woman's. The next time you have visitors from abroad, imagine what goes on in their minds: My host dresses well, sounds decent, eats in classy places—but if he can passively accept the surrounding squalor, there must be something wrong with him if he feels no pangs of conscience over spending P100 for coffee that would feed a family a good meal.

Two: We have been numbed to huge gaps between rich and poor. Assume that outside the Starbucks window there is a *taho* or *balut* vendor (my, I'm exposing my gourmet tastes here). Do the latte-sippers ever wonder how much these guys earn for each P10 cup of *taho*, or each P9 aborted duck fetus? I pose no indictment of the truly rich, who after all have brought philanthropy down to a science, but of the new or middle rich, who assume a Darwinian sense of triumph over those they have left behind. It is the sense of "K"—the sense that they have earned the right to enjoy the fruits of their labors—that deadens their conscience.

Third: We have been numbed into doing nothing. Life has become so complicated that doing good—something that should come naturally to all of us, I hasten to assure you—becomes so difficult. So you care about those kids peddling in the streets at night under the rain? Buy sampaguita at P10 a shot. Your car smells good, you use non-allergenic, organic fragrance—but wait, your smart son tells you, aren't the children being exploited by syndicates? That's what Teacher said in school!

So you want to help the poor by paying your taxes? But there are aspiring Jose Pidals waiting in the wings to get their two cents' worth and much, much more. So you want to give to an NGO? But haven't they earned enough with their Peace Bonds?

We shun government because it is corrupt. We shun organizations because we find them shallow and, in their own ways, self-serving. We end up turning inward, yet before long we realize the limits of individual striving. There was a time when conspicuous luxuries caused a bit more discomfort in Third World settings. It requires a sense of oneness, of empathy, with those who cannot afford, and a sense of conserving and giving by those who can. That organic bond has been shattered. Globalization, for instance, has attuned the educated Pinoy to cultivated tastes and standards abroad. Contrast the full nutritional information available for foreign goods, and that available for, say, *taho* or fishballs. Contrast too the prices; we do not bat an eyelash at paying more than P100 for coffee (for which prices are globally fixed) while inflation pushes the cost of local *balut* by timid P1 increments because it is limited to a local market (but just you wait until it goes international with "Fear Factor").

It is the restoration of that communal sense that I think the middle forces seek. They have not found it in any of the political movements that have presented themselves. Nations, scholars say, are "imagined communities," and the danger is that some caudillo will rise to embody for us the sense of nation that we have imagined for ourselves.

By golly, writing this will really change my life. From now on, each time I go to Starbucks, I will savor each sip of cappuccino with an extra shot of caffeine, but make sure I do so with more guilt. That beats walking on my knees in church with my arms outstretched, and I can even become a truly medieval Catholic without calloused knees, though it might lead to a calloused heart.

* * *

Comments to raulcp@zpdee.net

Opposition opting for impeachment

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

IN THEIR July 10 pronouncement, Catholic bishops pointed to two processes by which President Macapagal-Arroyo could address the demand that she be "accountable to the people" in the face of allegations of cheating in the 2004 election. These are through the impeachment process or a Truth Commission.

They said that the President's admission and apology for her "lapse in judgment" in talking to a Commission on Elections official during the canvassing of the votes "further eroded the people's trust on the already suspected electoral system and raised serious questions on the integrity of the elections."

"Beyond apology is accountability," the bishops said. "To restore trust would require a thorough, credible and independent process to examine the authenticity of the so-called Garcillano tapes, verify possible betrayal of public trust and mete out due punishment on all those found guilty."

This statement emphasized their preference for constitutional, as distinguished from "counter-constitutional," modes of determining accountability.

In response to this call and ahead of the State of the Nation Address on Monday, President Arroyo wrote last July 18 a letter to Archbishop Fernando Capalla, president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), saying she had initiated "the creation of a commission or a similar body to look into the truth behind the issues recently raised against me."

While the bishops' statement appeared to have calmed the demand for her resignation, and relieved pressure on the President coming from the streets, her initiative has sparked controversy among the clergy and the secular sectors over whether the commission was the vehicle for determining the truth behind the allegations. The controversy flared as the impeachment option was gathering momentum.

The issues raised in the new debate revolve around questions such as who will appoint the members of the truth commission; who will compose its membership; what are the parameters or scope of the inquiry; whether its inquiry will run parallel to the impeachment proceedings; will it have punitive powers or authority to compel compliance to its summonses for witnesses or to its subpoena for evidence.

These tricky issues are expected to be answered by the Sona which will clarify the mandate of the commission. Secular sectors are as divided as bishops on these issues, which reflect the penchant of Filipinos for looking for flaws that won't make things work rather than making something work.

The rate with which the issues are proliferating over the Truth Commission proposal only spotlights one evident truth of a Filipino culture: it emphasizes "can't do" rather than "can do." These issues can shoot down the Truth Commission before it even takes off.

The bishops are not sure whether the commission and the impeachment process should take place simultaneously, with some bishops saying that the commission's inquiry should set the stage for impeachment, implying that evidence that might be used in the inquiry would be used as evidence in the impeachment trial. Such a sequence is obviously time consuming. It is uncertain how long the commission's fact-finding inquiry would take. An impeachment trial that would follow the inquiry is certain to prolong the process, allowing the President to stay in office until the trial ends.

Lawyers are as divided as the clerics. Fr. Joaquin Bernas, who helped frame the 1987 Constitution, saw no need for a commission.

"If there would be any investigation into electoral fraud, the proper venue for that would still be the Presidential Electoral Tribunal and the impeachment court," he said. "Any parallel investigation would be an attempt to subvert the Constitution. There is a Constitution and there are institutions...to undertake such functions."

A similar opinion was voiced by former Sen. Rene Saguisag, who chaired the fact-finding commission which inquired into alleged corruption in the Philippine Centennial projects in 1998. He said a Truth Commission designated to look into election fraud would violate the law. "It's unconstitutional because (the job of investigating election results) belongs to the Presidential Electoral Tribunal," he said.

Opposition lawmakers also criticized the commission proposal. House Minority Leader Francis Escudero and San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora said such a commission could worsen the crisis.

Escudero said the commission had no constitutional basis. "We do not favor it," he said. It is a distraction from the impeachment process. And if its findings differ from that of Congress, that will only add to the confusion. "Can the commission force her out of office? Does its decision have binding effect?"

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. objected to the proposal from another point of view. He said the commission "could be a ploy to further prolong the situation and delay impeachment."

The reactions of the opposition suggest that they now find it to their advantage to push for impeachment, a mode to which they had earlier been lukewarm. They had thought that the President's challenge that the allegations be brought to an impeachment process was a trap to lure them into an arena where the administration coalition enjoys the advantage of numbers.

Their shift toward impeachment followed the breakup of the administration coalition in both Houses of Congress with the defection of the Liberal Party. These developments have encouraged the opposition to believe they have a chance to find the President guilty in an impeachment trial.

Demographic winter

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

SEVERAL developed countries now have fairly large populations of the elderly, the result of falling birth rates over the last 100 years. This pattern of population-age distribution has sometimes been described as a demographic winter, the term "winter" not just referring to the elderly but also intended to project a rather bleak and cold population landscape.

The large elderly population has sparked concern for several reasons. First, this means a greater burden on social security systems, with more money needed for retirement pensions and medical care of the elderly. Second, there's the problem of caregivers: with the younger population having to work, there's a lack of people to care for the elderly.

In the Philippines, the prospect of a demographic winter is often cited by groups opposed to family planning. There are actually two sides to the way the demographic winter is used by these groups. One is designed to warn us against family planning: "If we bring down birth rates, we'll eventually end up with a lot of old people with no young ones to care for them." The other argument goes: "Look, the West is paying for their sins of family planning and now that they have no caregivers for the elderly, they have to import them...from the Philippines." The argument is carried a step further: "That's why we should have even more children. We can always export them as caregivers for other countries' elderly."

Demographic nightmare

For the man or woman on the street, the possibilities of a demographic winter can be a nightmare. Last year while waiting for a flight in an American airport, I overheard a young attendant, who was pushing the wheelchair of an elderly woman, "I wonder, when I'm old, if there will still be young people to wheel us around."

The elderly woman wisely answered, "There will always be people to care for the elderly."

I believe she's right. There's a tendency for us to take the demographic winter literally, imagining a situation where the majority of the population would be elderly people. The statistics tell us otherwise. In the countries "worst" hit by this demographic winter, the elderly population (those aged 60 and over) hovers between 15 percent and 25 percent. Some examples: Japan, 25 percent; the United Kingdom, 21 percent; the United States, 16 percent.

Philippine winter

And the Philippines? Our elderly population is 6 percent right now, and it will be many years before we are hit by a demographic winter, if at all. Dr. Mercedes Concepcion, the foremost expert on demography in the Philippines, notes that with our present fertility trends, it will not be until 2100 before our population stops growing, which would then mean a demographic winter could set in.

It's important that we deal with the trend toward an aging population. But I think it's manipulative and deceptive to use a scenario of abandoned elderly as an argument against family planning, especially when a demographic winter is about a century away even with our current dismal state of family planning.

The irony is that even without a demographic winter, our elderly already suffer from deprivation and neglect. Many Filipinos see children as investments for their old age, yet the children end up working overseas, caring for other countries' elderly. Sure, they send money in, but that doesn't necessarily mean the elderly will be well cared for. I've seen some of the disastrous results for myself—of greedy relatives and caregivers skimming money from the remittances sent in for lolo or lola.

And why do so many Filipinos have to work overseas? Because we can't create enough local jobs, the direct result of a high population growth rate. We fear a demographic winter, but what we see today isn't a demographic spring either. Rather than seeing hope in the young, we despair at the way they are sent out into the streets at night to sell flowers, and more.

Schools for the elderly

There's much to learn from one of our neighbors, China, on population management. One can disagree with their drastic one-child policy, but it's still important to look at how they're dealing now with the very real prospects of a demographic winter.

About 10 percent of China's population is over the age of 60. You can feel this, seeing large numbers of elderly in the streets. The age of retirement in China is a relatively young 55, but this doesn't mean hordes of idle elderly.

The elderly are well cared for, within families or in special homes and they're often out in the streets. Parks have facilities for the elderly, including exercise equipment. Not that they need it, considering how so many grandparents get their exercise caring for the young—early in the morning and toward the end of the afternoon, you find droves of grandparents bringing home the children, walking or by bike. During the day, you find them, too, caring for infants and toddlers. I will never forget a heartwarming scene in a park, where an elderly retired professor was reading away by a 700-year-old gingko tree, while his granddaughter slept at his side.

In Shanghai, I visited one of many "schools for the retired," operated with public funds and charging very minimal tuition. I was amazed by the range of courses offered, from computer word processing to flower arrangement to... Latin! I asked an uncle if Latin was popular and he too was momentarily puzzled, before breaking out laughing and explaining in Chinese, "It's not the Latin language; it's Latin dancing."

All this would not have been possible without a strong family planning program. As the burden of unwanted and unplanned births decreased, worker productivity also improved, and part of the labor force's earnings went into a common social security pool, which is now being used in part to care for the elderly. If China had continued with its high population growth rate, they would have faced, as we do now, the gargantuan problem of having to stretch meager resources to support a large population of dependents: children and the elderly.

What are the prospects for the Philippines as we continue to neglect family planning? With high unemployment, with low contributions to social security payments, we face the threat of a heavy dependency burden in terms of the elderly. The young will continue to leave in large numbers to care for the elderly in other countries, while our own elderly are left to fend for themselves, trying to make ends meet with their paltry social security monthly payments, remittances from overseas (if they're at all given to them) and senior citizen discounts on movies and medicines (if the drugstore gives them at all).

Family planning isn't just a matter of children. It's something we need to do for our elderly as well.

Low-cost and low-tech

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IT seems I understated the prices for some screening procedures for cervical cancer and HPV (human papilloma virus) infection in Wednesday's column. The prices for "pap smears" of about P400 in private clinics and for as low as P50 in public health centers are for "traditional" pap smears, using a cotton swab to collect the specimen tissue. The problem with the traditional "pap," though, is the high rate of "false negatives" since the cotton swab is a poor medium for picking up specimen tissue.

There's a new and more efficient means of collecting specimens, known as the "liquid" pap thin prep or liquid-based cytology (a brush is used to collect tissue), but it is more costly, about P1,200. The same tissue collected in a pap smear can be used for the HPV DNA test, which determines whether a woman has been infected with HPV.

While the HPV test, as Prof. John Cuzick, head of cancer research at the UK Centre of Epidemiology, pointed out, is an "automated, objective and very sensitive" means of screening, its main drawback is cost. Filipino OB-Gynes at the conference of the Asia Oceania (research organization on) Genital Infections and Neoplasia (AOGIN) say an HPV DNA test today costs almost P4,000.

A major disadvantage to both the pap smear and the HPV DNA test is the time gap between taking the samples and producing the results, which in the Philippines can range from a week to six weeks. One can just imagine the anxiety of a woman who must wait more than a month before knowing the result. A more serious problem is the difficulty involved in "calling back" women with infections or lesions or with "borderline" results, who may need further tests and treatment.

Even more dismaying is the lack of qualified cytologists (who perform the pap smears), lab technicians and pathologists who will determine the diagnosis, and the low level of quality assurance of those labs where such tests are evaluated.

For these and other reasons, governments and NGOs in developing countries have begun to look for cheaper, faster and more humane cervical cancer screening methods that will allow them to reach all their women.

* * *

DR. Cecile Ladines-Llave, an OB-Gyne oncologist who currently heads the PGH Cancer Institute, discussed at the AOGIN conference the rationale for the recent recommendation of an experts' panel that in the Philippines, the primary screening method to be adopted in a planned mass screening program would be VIA or visual inspection with acetic acid.

VIA involves swabbing the cervix with acetic acid (vinegar) or lugol's iodine (a darker staining medium) and looking for tell-tale signs of pre-cancerous lesions. This method is not just low-cost and low-tech, but authorities say it is also fairly easy to teach.

Only 12 percent of the country's women between the ages of 25 and 55 years old have been screened, said Dr. Llave, despite the fact that there is fairly high awareness, with 61 percent of the population having heard of the pap smear, and 50 percent claiming to know of the benefits of regular screening.

Apparently, "there is not enough motivation" among the women to go for testing, said Dr. Llave, the reason for which could be mainly financial but also cultural, owing to the stigma attached to cervical cancer and HPV infection as a sexually transmitted disease and women's reluctance in general to undergo pelvic exams.

A serious problem that likewise mandates against relying on the pap smear as the primary method of screening is the thinning ranks of qualified medical and lab personnel in the country. "Most of those trained have moved abroad," said Dr. Llave. At present there are only about 800 qualified cytologists in the country. Right now, nurses, nursing aides and midwives have been trained to perform pap smears, but hospitals and health centers are already having a hard time finding enough of them. Dr. Llave recommends tapping the barangay health workers to help with motivating and counseling women in their barangays. But a serious drawback is the indifference of local governments. Barangay health workers are already burdened with too many responsibilities as it is.

* * *

UNFORTUNATELY for the Philippines and other developing countries which have the "highest burden of disease" of cervical cancer, an international panel of experts which recently produced revised guidelines for the International Association of Research on Cancer (IARC) was equivocal about VIA. The guidelines state that there is not yet sufficient evidence to recommend VIA as the principal screening test in public health programs, with the validity of test results depending on the training and skill of examining health personnel.

This opinion may change, though, as soon as definitive results from a pilot project in Thailand come in. Khunying Kabchitt Limpaphayam, who heads a project with support from Johns Hopkins, spoke at the conference on the "Single Visit Approach to Cervical Cancer Prevention."

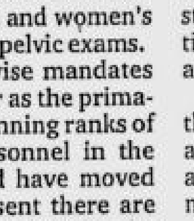
With only 5 percent of the 15 million Thai women at risk getting screened, Dr. Limpapahayam stressed that a program to test and treat women in hard-to-reach areas and "low-resource" settings, without need for a return visit for treatment, is a necessity. Their project involves using VIA to diagnose women, and immediately performing cryosurgery, freezing and destroying abnormal cells, on suspicious-looking tissue. "No screening if there's no treatment available!" said Limpapahayam.

Almost 100,000 women have since undergone the test, which is conducted by trained nurses, and the results look promising. However, quality assurance must be maintained, and the support of national and local health authorities is necessary.

Can we ever get this in the Philippines?

Different

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

PURITA Kalaw-Ledesma (1914-2005) is a revered name in artistic and cultural circles. She championed Philippine art when people were too busy picking up the pieces of their lives after the war, a time when few people paid any attention to artists or their work. Her name is associated very closely with the Art Association of the Philippines which she founded in 1947, and the pioneering Philippine Art Gallery that exhibited a misunderstood group of "Modern Artists" some of whom have since been honored as National Artists of the Philippines. At the very least, Mrs. Ledesma can be credited with foresight, which is a gift badly needed in the country today.

The name Purita Kalaw-Ledesma has also been immortalized in language—particularly gayspeak—where, like Luz Valdez, it has taken on a new life and meaning of its own. Purita was the familiar and diminutive form of her mother's name Pura. Purita sounds very close to "purity," but in gayspeak Purita Kalaw-Ledesma means having no money or being poor. Positive or not, name recall is something many politicians wish for at elections and in the case of Mrs. Ledesma, her name is an integral part of Philippine Art and Culture.

I first met Mrs. Ledesma in November 1987, during the launch of the second of her three books, "PAG The Biggest Little Room," held on the top floor of the Silahis Art and Handicrafts Center in Intramuros. Before the book launching, Mrs. Ledesma was conferred a degree by the Asean Institute of Art and it was quite an odd scene to see guests walking around in academic gowns, suffering in the heat because the venue was not air-conditioned. On my way up, I saw Mrs. Ledesma's elder sister, former Carnival Queen, senator and chairperson of the Board of Censors for Motion Pictures, Maria Kalaw Katigbak being assisted up the stairs. I was literally following history here and was briefly in awe until I looked at her from head to toe and noticed that she was not wearing any shoes. She later complained her shoes were too tight and that was the beginning of a long conversation that I had promised to pursue with my tape recorder but never did.

The same could be said of Mrs. Ledesma who also agreed to an interview. That opportunity is now lost and forms part of a growing list of things I will regret the rest of my life. Fortunately, Mrs. Ledesma wrote books and she related the turning point in her life as follows:

"One afternoon my sisters and I went to fetch Tatay [Teodoro M. Kalaw, who is now immortalized in bronze in front of the National Library on T.M. Kalaw Street, Manila] at the Ayuntamiento in Intramuros near the Manila Cathedral. We had been waiting in the car for what seemed a long, long time when we finally decided to go up and look in on him. We found Tatay having a meeting in one of the rooms. Since the meeting would still take some time, he sent us exploring one of the rooms, called the Marble Hall, just to keep us occupied. We scampered down the corridor and stepped into a big hall filled with paintings.

"I was amazed at what I saw! Never had I seen such things. For the first time in my life I came face to face with beautiful works of art. There were: Benlliure's copy of [his classmate Juan Luna's painting] 'Spoliarium,' Enrique Ruiz's huge canvas 'In Doubt' and many others which I cannot recall now. Marble Hall was a big, magnificent room. But more breathtaking was the grandeur of the paintings that decorated its walls.

"I tarried and stared in awe at each work of art. Surprisingly, what struck me most was not the 'Spoliarium' but Ruiz's 'In Doubt.' It showed a woman dressed in the mythical costume of Madjapahit, half kneeling, half sitting on the ground, in a garden splashed with plants and flowers. She was holding a flower, like she was plucking its petals, as if asking ['He loves me...He loves me not...'] There was a faraway gaze in her eyes and the whole painting was bathed in mauve light, with a dream-like quality to it. It stirred a silent stream in me which until that moment I did not know existed.

"Even after my sisters had long gone, I stayed on, my eyes and mind fixed on [that] painting. My sisters had to scurry back to the hall to tell me that Tatay was already in the car and that we were ready to go home. On the drive home I could not speak.

"Tatay must have sensed that something strange was going on inside me because when we reached the house, alighting from the car, he said, his hands on my shoulders, 'Siya iba sa lahat' (She is different from the rest)."

Those words were truly prophetic. She was truly different from the rest. She founded the Art Association of the Philippines in 1947, a group that would have been the Philippine Art Association if not for the critic E. Aguilar Cruz who commented that the acronym would read PAA, thus it became as we know it today: AAP.

She was truly different when she fought for a permanent home for the National Museum at a time when the country was picking up the pieces after two decades of Marcos and martial law. Now Purita Kalaw-Ledesma is history. She will be remembered for her work and the quiet dignity captured on canvas by Fabian de la Rosa in a painting I truly covet.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

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LETTERS

Already fed up with traditional politicians

THE STUDENT Christian Movement of the Philippines would like to correct an error in the illustration, published on Page A20 in the July 14 issue of the INQUIRER. The illustration lumped our organization together with those calling for Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to resign and Vice President Noli de Castro to assume the presidency.

We are calling for Ms Arroyo to immediately step down, but we are not in favor of the Vice President succeeding her. We have reviewed our press releases and we did not find any phrase or sentence that could be interpreted to give that meaning. We have always reiterated in all our statements that we do not want more traditional politicians to govern the country after Ms Arroyo. We've had enough of presidents who broke their promises to promote and protect the youth's and people's basic democratic rights.

De Castro is also tainted by the electoral fraud scandal. Moreover, he is no different from Ms Arroyo who has no clear position on major issues and concerns affecting the youth and the people.

We are pushing for the installation of a people's democratic council of leaders, representing the different sectors of our society, who will ensure that our basic democratic rights and interests will be prioritized. This includes our calls for a moratorium on tuition increases and for a higher education budget. This includes our calls for an immediate P125 wage increase, genuine land reform and a stop to the countless killings and human rights violations. Altogether, we want to have a leadership that will advance the interest of the nation, not the interest of a few and of foreign business.

The people should not be betrayed again. Let us have real alternative leaders and programs now. We, the youth, join the other sectors of Philippine society in the quest for genuine social justice.

Ousting Ms Arroyo, who betrayed the spirit of the two People Power uprisings and our cry for meaningful change, will provide an immediate relief for the nation. We still have a long journey ahead of us. Taking these alternatives should be our next, concrete step.

With this, we trust in the people's movement, in their collective action to effect the changes our country needs.

—DION CARLO CERRAFON,
chair, Student Christian
Movement of the Philippines,
NCCP Compound,
879 Edsa, Quezon City

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No.1684 series of 2005

Bad habit

LET me share my thoughts with regard to what's going on in our country. I think we are in deep s--t!

We are caught in a "vicious cycle" wherein we have acquired—aside from the bad habits of stealing and gambling—the bad habit of changing our head of state by means other than legal. We are tearing each other apart, and the dogs are just waiting for the final "fall."

I think the Philippines now belongs to the dogs!

—JM FRANCO JR.,
B-221 L-4 Daffodil St.,
Pembo, Makati City

Impeaching GMA

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

I SAY to those who seek the bigger, the higher, the nobler truth, and nothing but the truth: Be happy with the small truth already dished out from the lips of the President. That is all we are going to get. Let us go back to all the past commissions, even the independent commission on who killed Benigno Aquino. Did we ever find the truth?

Whether the President resigns, is impeached or goes on, and people still seek the truth, I suggest an English/Australian-style Royal Commission that is totally independent and has wide terms of reference and powers.

As the Philippines is on the verge of debating a parliamentary system, why not, as a start appoint, get an English/Australian eminent person to lead the truth commission? The Filipinos do not have any tradition of the Westminster system and without learning this system, a parliamentary form established in the Philippines will be a farce.—**Jess Diaz, 68 Market Street, Sydney**

* * *

I would like to comment on another impeachment. I am not on the side of the President. I only want to ask: Do we have to do it again? It's the economy that's suffering from all of this.—**Michael Alfaro, 65 Karuhatan Road, Karuhatan Valenzuela city**

* * *

I'm against the resignation of the President, but if she forms the so-called truth commission, she will be agitating the people to go to the streets. How can she form a commission to investigate herself? Again, this is a lapse in judgment. Better for her to wait for the impeachment proceedings.—**Vic Dael, Dubai Media City, Dubai, UAE**

* * *

I believe President Macapagal-Arroyo should be reprimanded, but to subject her to the impeachment process is a waste of the Filipino people's money and puts our economy at its lowest ebb.—**Raul Nazaret, PO Box 3098, Dubai UAE**

I think the President has lost the trust of the majority. What kind of moral values are we teaching our people, especially our young citizens, if we allow a sitting President to do what is wrong? I'm in favor of the impeachment process but for the sake of the *delicadeza* (propriety)...I would support a call for resignation of the current administration and the holding of snap elections.—**Henry B Dioneda, PO Box 2273, Ruwi PC 112, Oman**

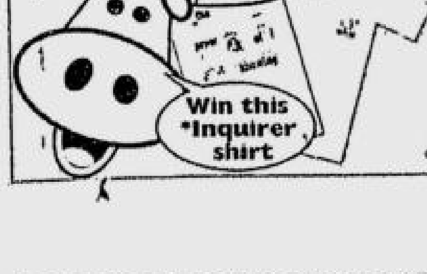
* * *

What new people power? The real people power was wielded during the last elections. That is the real power of the people: the ballot! Ms Arroyo won the election. If you say she cheated and you have proof, go to the courts, not to the streets. Those politicians who lost cannot be the accuser, prosecutor and judge at the same time. Let us stop this divisive, costly, extra-constitutional way of changing leaders by taking to the streets. Metro Manila is not the Philippines. People living in Metro Manila are not the only Filipinos. Former President Corazon Aquino, Senate President Franklin Drilon and those Cabinet members who quit misread the whole thing. They have said their piece. Ms Arroyo did not bite. They should shut up and do the next constitutional thing, which is to impeach the President!—**Renato Correa, Block 10 Lot 12 Greenfields 1, San Agustin, Novaliches, QC**

* * *

It will not do for members of the legislature to brush off impeachment as futile for whatever reason; that would be showing disrespect for the Constitution which they are sworn to defend and protect.—**Mariano Patalinjug, 11 Balint Drive, Apt 241, Yonkers, New York 10710**

INQBOX



Question of the Week

Do you think the planned image makeover of President Gloria Arroyo into a friendlier, gentler president will work?

Senders of d best 20 texts as publishd in Tuesday's **INQBox** *wiL each receiv an "Inquirer Shirt!U*

[illegible] inquirer box name/age/city/message.

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(Maximum of 160 characters)

*Metro Manila winners can call Jane at 8978808.
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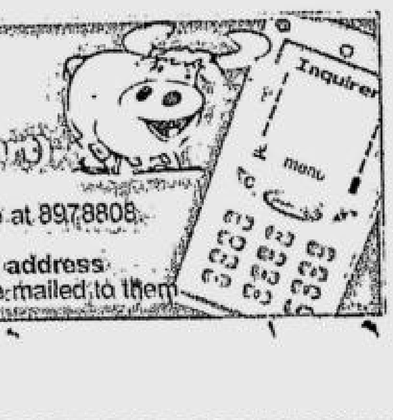

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Across the NATION

Text us your feedback: Inquirer atn name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) *Assistant Editor* **Tony Bergonia**

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MILF helps AFP troops go after Abus

COTABATO CITY—At least a thousand Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels temporarily abandoned their Camp Bader in Guindolongan, Maguindanao yesterday to give government soldiers a free hand in their operations against Abu Sayyaf bandits.

The movement of MILF fighters to the other side of the national highway was the outcome of an agreement among government, MILF and international truce monitoring groups to give way for the operation against Abu Sayyaf leaders Khadaffy Janjalani and Abu Solaiman, each having a $5 million prize on their heads courtesy of the US government's worldwide antiterrorism project.

Brig. Gen. Ben Dolorfino, head of the government's Joint Action Group monitoring ceasefire violations among combatants, said soldiers from the 6th Infantry Division were allowed to witness the MILF exodus to dispel suspicion that Abu Sayyaf bandits could have joined the movement in disguise as rebels.

Sincerity

"That showed the MILF's sincerity to go on with the peace process which is nearly on its final stage," Dolorfino said.

The MILF's temporary pullout from Camp Bader was an agreed move to resolve a reported clash between government and MILF forces in Guindolongan town on July 16.

A soldier and three guerrillas were injured in the clash, which monitoring groups blamed on apparent miscommunication.

Immediately after the MILF exodus, the Armed Forces resumed its pursuit operation against members of the Abu Sayyaf with the assurance that there will be no firing of cannons and artillery.

At least four suspected Sayyaf members had been killed since the start of the military operation on July 1 in Datu Odin Sinsuat, Talayan, South Upi and Guindolongan towns in Maguindanao.

In Talayan town on Tuesday, MILF rebels clashed with government soldiers who were tracking down the Abu Sayyaf bandits.

Lt. Col. Franklin del Prado, Sixth Infantry Division spokesperson, said the incident was a result of a "little miscommunication."

"The incident was already addressed by CCCH (Coordinating Committee on Cessation of Hostilities)," he said. ***Charlie Señase and Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

ROUNDUP

37 declared meningo safe

ROXAS CITY—The 37 persons who had close contact with the woman who died of meningococcemia in Sapian, Capiz in June are now safe. Francisco Oroso, Sapian rural health officer, said those cleared were either relatives or neighbors of the 35-year-old victim. Based on monitoring by health workers of Barangay Agtatacay Norte in Sapian, he said there were no problems in their health, a sign that they did not contract the bacteria that cause meningococcemia. The victim was buried a day after her death to prevent the bacteria from spreading. Meningococcemia is a rare infectious disease characterized by upper respiratory tract infection, fever, skin rash and lesions, eye and ear problems, and possibly a sudden state of extreme physical depression (shock), which may be life-threatening without appropriate medical care. ***Felipe Celino, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Water system completed

ILAGAN, Isabela—The rehabilitation of the water system of this capital town has been completed. Mayor Delfinito Albano said the new water distribution system, which will start operating in August, replaced the more than 60-year-old water pipes and facilities that the town has been using. The Ilagan government borrowed P58 million from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation and lent it to the Ilagan Water District to rehabilitate the old water system. The loan would be repaid in 14 years, he said. The water system is expected to benefit at least 20,000 consumers in the town. ***Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Ex-teacher found guilty

BAGUIO CITY—The Civil Service Commission has found a retired school official here guilty in a 1994 complaint filed by a teacher. In a seven-page ruling last month, Lorenzo Danipog, CSC Cordillera director, found Allyson Belagan, former Baguio City schools superintendent, guilty of sexual impropriety when he tried to fondle a teacher who had applied for a substitute teaching post at a local high school on June 19, 1994. Instead of addressing the teacher's application, Belagan asked her to accompany him for a cup of coffee where he tried to solicit a sexual encounter, Danipog said. ***Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Mayors seek power over cops

IBALIK NYO NA!

BAGUIO CITY—Abra mayors have asked Malacañang to restore their authority over their police forces, which government forfeited in April to defuse political violence in that province. Based on the findings of a government fact-finding team, Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes withdrew the administrative power given to Abra Gov. Vicente Valera and 27 mayors, which allowed them to supervise the police. Mayor Rogelio Elveña of Tayum, Abra, coursed the mayors' request through the Cordillera Regional Development Council (RDC) last week. Elveña, a retired police senior superintendent, told the RDC that he was pleading for "a return to normalcy" in Abra on behalf of the families of the Abra policemen who were pulled out due to allegations that they served in the private armies of Abra politicians. ***Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Co-op anniversary

CITY OF CALAPAN—The Calapan Labor Service Development Cooperative (Calsedeco) will celebrate its 30th founding anniversary on July 23. Highlights of the program are the blessing of the Calsedeco Plaza and the Shelterville housing program for its members in Barangay Parang and the Gawad Parangal. Calsedeco has been awarded Most Outstanding Service Cooperative in the Philippines. Its programs include consumer sales, potable water distribution, lending and savings, assistance to the poor, a laboratory cooperative, mutual benefit fund for members and arrastre, stevedoring, porterage and other cargo handling services. ***Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Pact signed for cooperatives

CITY OF CALAPAN—The Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) and the Land Bank of the Philippines have signed a memorandum of agreement that will assist municipal-based multi-sectoral cooperatives. The SP will formulate the provincial cooperative development, allocate funds, identify volunteers for business management consultancy and assign an action officer to coordinate cooperative efforts. ***Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Model farm planned

CITY OF CALAPAN—A model agri-tourism farm is being prepared by the provincial government of Oriental Mindoro in Victoria town. To have an idea on the project, provincial officials had visited the Leisure Farms in Lemery, Batangas which showcases a herb garden, a coffee farm, an organic integrated model farm, fishing pond and facilities like a village center, a camp site and fishing lake. An initial P1.5 million was allocated to start the three-year development plan of the project. ***Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Worker held for killings

TIWI, Albay—A 32-year-old laborer was immediately arrested by lawmen after killing a couple on Monday in Barangay Biyong here. Judge Samuel Buendia, presiding judge of the Tiwi-Malinao Municipal Circuit Trial Court, issued a warrant of arrest for Cesar Cernichez based on the testimony of one of the victims shortly before death. The Cobilla couple Jimmy, 33, and Beatriz, 34, were stabbed to death inside their house while they were sleeping at around 1 a.m. Their only child, Arjay, 10, was awakened while his mother was fighting for life. Arjay told the police that her mother told him that Cernichez stabbed them. The Cobilla son ran toward his grandmother's house and sought help. Cernichez, who was charged with double murder, denied the accusation against him. The suspect said he had a standing grudge against Jimmy due to jealousy but he could not kill the couple. ***Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

ACT NOW! SAVE THE COUNTRY!

AN OPEN LETTER

TO PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
FROM SENATOR RAMON MAGSAYSAY, JR.

Her Excellency:

The present political crisis has more than affected every Filipino who loves this country, giving rise to divisiveness, destruction and negativity between and among varied sectors. Like most, I am saddened by the turn of events but I remain hopeful that everything will soon come to pass. I have always held in high regard the import of your office, and it is in this spirit that I submit the following, and strongly urge you to immediately carry out these urgent short-term reforms :

A. The Cleansing of the Bureaucracy.

1. The removal of public officials whose unfitness, incompetence, dishonesty, partiality, and political/filial connections affect the credibility and integrity of government.

2. The courtesy resignation of all appointed public officials, and the designation of career civil service personnel as officers in charge. The removal of excessive sub-Cabinet positions in the government in contravention of Administrative Code of the Philippines (reportedly, the number of Undersecretaries and Assistant Secretaries appointed and serving at present are double than the mandated number of USECs and ASECs under the Code).

3. The reorganization of the Commission on Elections, the filing of charges against erring election officials, and the guarantee of the independence of the Commission.

B. Giving Meaning to the Constitutional Mandates of the OMBUDSMAN and on Political Opportunities

1. Consistent with the constitutional mandate as stated in Art. XI Sec. 13 (1), the filing of complaints by the Ombudsman motu propio against all government officials allegedly involved in jueteng and other offenses betraying public trust. Likewise, the President's most immediate family should be barred from seeking political or elective posts according to the constitutional provisions on the prohibition of political dynasties and equal opportunities for public service.

C. Ordaining Transparency and Accountability in Public Service

1. The earnest investigation and prosecution of alleged wasteful utilization of limited government resources by government officials (including those who are charged with plunder). It would include the prosecution of military officials Carlos Garcia, George Rabusa, and Jacinto Ligot for the charge of plunder. Likewise, the alleged malversation of the Motor Vehicles Users Charge (MVUC) and the reported overpricing of C-5 Kalayaan Avenue project, both by the Department of Public Works and Highways, should be inquired.

2. The twin policies of transparency and accountability should be respected at all times. To this end, the rescission of grossly disadvantageous and onerous contracts particularly the North Railway Project, the AFP Boracay mansion, among others. Likewise, contracts entered into by the government amounting to ten million pesos and above should be opened to public scrutiny.

3. Effecting the tenet that public office is a public trust, critical agencies with huge expenditure programs must be audited fully.

4. Strengthening the implementation of the programs that encourage people to exercise their right to know and access to matters/information of public concern (the so-called "sunshine laws").

D. Immediate Economic Reforms

1. The suspension of the Public Works Fund, the various intelligence funds appropriated to departments and agencies other than the AFP, PNP and NBI and unjustified travel and seminar-conference expenses of the rest of the bureaucracy.

2. The privatization of PAGCOR and eradication of jueteng and all other forms of illegal gambling.

3. Kickstart anew the stalled privatization program.

E. Merit System in the Judiciary

1. The appointments in the judiciary according to careerism. Encourage the adherence to the constitutional guidelines on the timeframe for deciding cases - 24 months for the Supreme Court, 12 months for collegiate courts and three months for all other lower courts.

F. Social Reforms.

1. The strengthening of values, morality and right conduct or religion as part of the curricula in primary and secondary education.

2. Encouraging the use of government savings and the same to support health insurance, educational benefits, livelihood assistance, skills acquisition and retraining of displaced and marginalized employees and similar concerns.

I was elected to the Senate by our people so that I may render them genuine, dedicated and meaningful service. I decided to be a public servant to be true to the legacy of my father, that "those who have less in life may have more in law."

I believe that the administration must act swiftly to fulfill the oath of President to "preserve and defend the Constitution, execute its laws and do justice to every man." To this end, the President must introduce meaningful changes to render authentic and effective service to the Filipino people.

As can be observed, most of the recommendations stated are based on the tenets laid down in the fundamental law, the 1987 Philippine Constitution. Likewise, they can be effected immediately through the issuance of executive orders or presidential proclamations and earnest implementation of existing laws. The people are not simply advocating charter amendments, but more importantly, they are waiting for genuine and real reforms. NOW.

I call on you to practice reason and impartiality, to gain the trust of the people you govern. WE call on you to be our servant-leader.

Thank you.

RAMON B. MAGSAYSAY, JR.

ADVT

Mayor won't give permit to protest in the nude

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Mayor Jerry Treñas has refused to grant a permit to a nude protest by a local columnist during the State of the Nation Address (Sona) of President Macapagal-Arroyo on Monday.

Treñas told Peter Solis Nery of The Guardian that he could be arrested because what he planned to do would be considered as "indecent exposure."

"If he will do that, we will enforce the law," said the mayor.

Nery plans to disrobe at the Arroyo Fountain in front of the Iloilo Provincial Capitol on July 25 while the President delivers the Sona before members of Congress.

While listening to the Sona through a public address system, the naked Nery wants to make a running commentary on the President's speech.

The Arroyo fountain is a historic landmark at the heart of the city. It was named after the late Sen. Jose Maria Arroyo, the grandfather of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo who represented the seventh senatorial district of Iloilo, Capiz and Romblon from 1919 to 1928.

Nery said what he planned to do would be part of the mounting clamor for Ms Arroyo to step down.

"My nude protest is my contribution to the unfolding history of our country," he said in a letter to Treñas requesting for a permit.

Nery said he envisioned other protesters to join him during the whole proceeding as they may also be "inspired to undress and protest in the nude."

Treñas said he consulted city hall lawyers and even met with Nery, discouraging him from staging his protest.

"I respect his constitutional right to protest but he should not do it that way," he said.

Treñas, president of the League of Cities of the Philippines, is a staunch supporter of Ms Arroyo. He did not grant a rally permit to militants during the President's visit here on June 30.

In a text message sent to the INQUIRER, Nery said he was in a dilemma on what to do next after he was refused a protest permit.

"I thought that someone with a name and a face determined to go nude will jolt Ilonggos enough. That is my role, to shock them and now they are starting to notice my call for (the President's) resignation," he said in his text message.

Nery discusses sex in his columns and considers himself a "celebrity writer with a real following." He had posed nude for magazines and pictorials. He was a teacher and also a licensed nurse.

3 PERCENT NEXT MONTH

Mindoro power rate hike seen

By Madonna T. Virola
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

POWER rates in Oriental Mindoro are projected to increase again by at least 3 percent next month as a result of a contract between the province's electric cooperative and a power supplier.

Felipe Ramos, senior member of the power committee of the Oriental Mindoro Electric Cooperative (Ormeco), said the cooperative management is now seeking a reduction in its generation charges by restructuring its power supply agreement with Mirant Global Phils.

Ormeco, as the local electric distribution utility, is required by the Epira Law to collect the lowest possible charges from its consumers, he said.

"Our power supply agreement with Mirant that was signed in 2000 has turned out to be very expensive due to double escalation rates approved under the old Energy Regulatory Board," he said.

"Next month it will increase by another 3 percent. Ormeco has been trying to reduce the burden of the high cost to consumers by maximizing its output from its mini hydro power plant," he said.

Leopoldo Malapitan, Calapan Ormeco director, said the cooperative proposed to Mirant in their meeting on Wednesday to lower the rate to P5.64 per kwh.

Mirant's existing rate is P6.30 per kwh.

"We are negotiating with Mirant," said Malapitan.

Engineer Ronnie Morales, power committee spokesperson, said Ormeco was asking Mirant to choose between maintaining its 20-percent capacity and get only 20 percent of the energy or 40 percent of its energy but install 40 percent of Ormeco's 35 MW system.

On the baseload basis, Morales added, Mirant's rate is 10 percent higher than another IPP on the island.

"Ormeco's power committee would also like to see the elimination of onerous provisions in Mirant's contract like the punitive buyout provisions," he said.

The Ormeco official asked the giant power generator to deal with the penalties of P150 million that have accrued due to Mirant's failure to deliver the contracted energy.

"Our new contract for full service power with Power One Corp. gives us enough flexibility to further reduce our average generation rates. Power One's rate is competitive but we need to correct the imbalance in our power contracts to fully benefit the consumers," Ramos said.

"It will be very expensive fo Ormeco consumers if Ormeco contracts and pay for a 7.5 MW reserve capacity so that it ca produce power in case Miran fails to deliver," said Ramos.

"This will cost the consumer an additional P1 per kwh."

Ormeco needs an installed dependable capacity of 35 megawatts to assure stable supply by the time Napocor's renta of the GE generators expire in May 2006.

Power One's Electricity Suppl Agreement with Ormeco calls fo the development of renewable energy, mainly hydro.

Oriental Mindoro's green mountains can produce up to 30 to 50 megawatts of hydro electric powe

"This will bring down our lon term power cost," Ramos said.

Samar villagers flee homes as Army hunts rebels

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

BASEY, Samar—The town's unfinished gymnasium has been turned into a refugee camp for over a thousand residents from three interior villages who fled their homes due to intensified operations by the military against the communist rebels.

The residents of Barangays Cogon, Cancaiyas and Bulao started their seven-kilometer trek to the town proper on Tuesday afternoon out of fear that they might be caught in the crossfire.

Some arrived on Tuesday night after walking for three to four hours. Others reached the town proper in the morning. But they decided to stay in the gymnasium, a few meters from the municipal hall, because it was open to the public.

Their arrival caught local officials by surprise. Mayor Vicente Labuac yesterday convened an emergency meeting with the town's Peace and Order Council to address the problem.

"I am sad and overwhelmed by this situation," he said.

The municipal government released P50,000 to buy sacks of rice, noodles and sardines for the evacuees.

Based on the records of the peasant group, Samahan Han Gugti Nga Mag-uruma (Sagupa), there were about 254 families or 1,270 persons displaced due to the intensified military operations in the three villages.

These evacuees sleep on the floor of the gymnasium that has a roof but has no walls after its construction has been stopped due to lack of funds.

Although the situation in the gymnasium may not be comfortable, Jesus Daguma, 45 and a resident of Cogon, and the other evacuees have no plans of going home for as long as the soldiers remain in their villages.

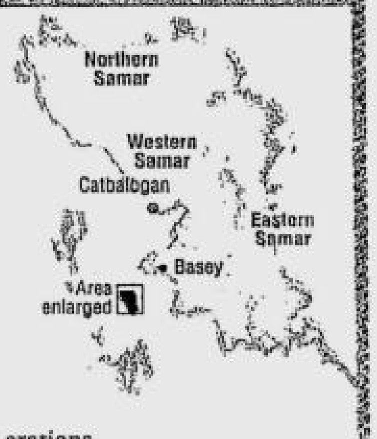
"We are not the enemy. We are just ordinary farmers and we want peace. We call on our military officials to spare us," said Daguma, a father of four young children.

Fernando Dacul, barangay chair of Bulao, said that since Tuesday morning, bursts of gunfire rang out in their village from soldiers who were conducting operations.

Col. Noel Cabides, deputy brigade officer of the 801st Infantry Battalion based in Hinabangan town, confirmed that military operations were ongoing in the three villages, which he said were infiltrated by New People's Army (NPA) rebels.

"But let me stress to you that these are legitimate operations and not just to harass the civilians, including children," Cabides said.

Samar hot spot



Gov says he's getting impatient on gas shares

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Palawan Gov. Joel Reyes said he is running out of patience over the national government's failure to deliver the shares of Palawan from the revenue in the Camago-Malampaya Natural Gas to Power Project.

"I am usually a very patient man; but I am running out of patience," he said.

Reyes issued this statement in the light of the delay in the release of Palawan's share from the Malampaya proceeds indicated in the Interim Agreement between the national government and the Palawan provincial government.

He made this brief remark while delivering his State of the Province Address (Sopa) Tuesday during the 53rd session of the 38th Sangguniang Panlalawigan. In his address, Reyes said that the signing of the Interim Agreement last Feb. 9, between the national government and the Palawan provincial government, was a victory for the province.

He said that since the signing of the agreement, the provincial government immediately complied with the submission of the list of priority development projects that will be funded out of half of the 40 percent local government gas share to the Department of Energy for its review and endorsement to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).

The agreement states that Palawan shall receive at least P1.2 billion in projects, financed by Malampaya revenues.

Rolando Bonoan Jr., provincial information officer, said former Energy Secretary Vincent Perez approved and endorsed the package of developmental projects to the DBM even before he left his post in March, 2005. *Jofelle Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Mandaue, Bohol officials deny Loren poll fraud rap

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—The election officer of Mandaue City in Cebu and Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado dismissed the allegation of former Sen. Loren Legarda that the election returns (ER) in these areas were rigged.

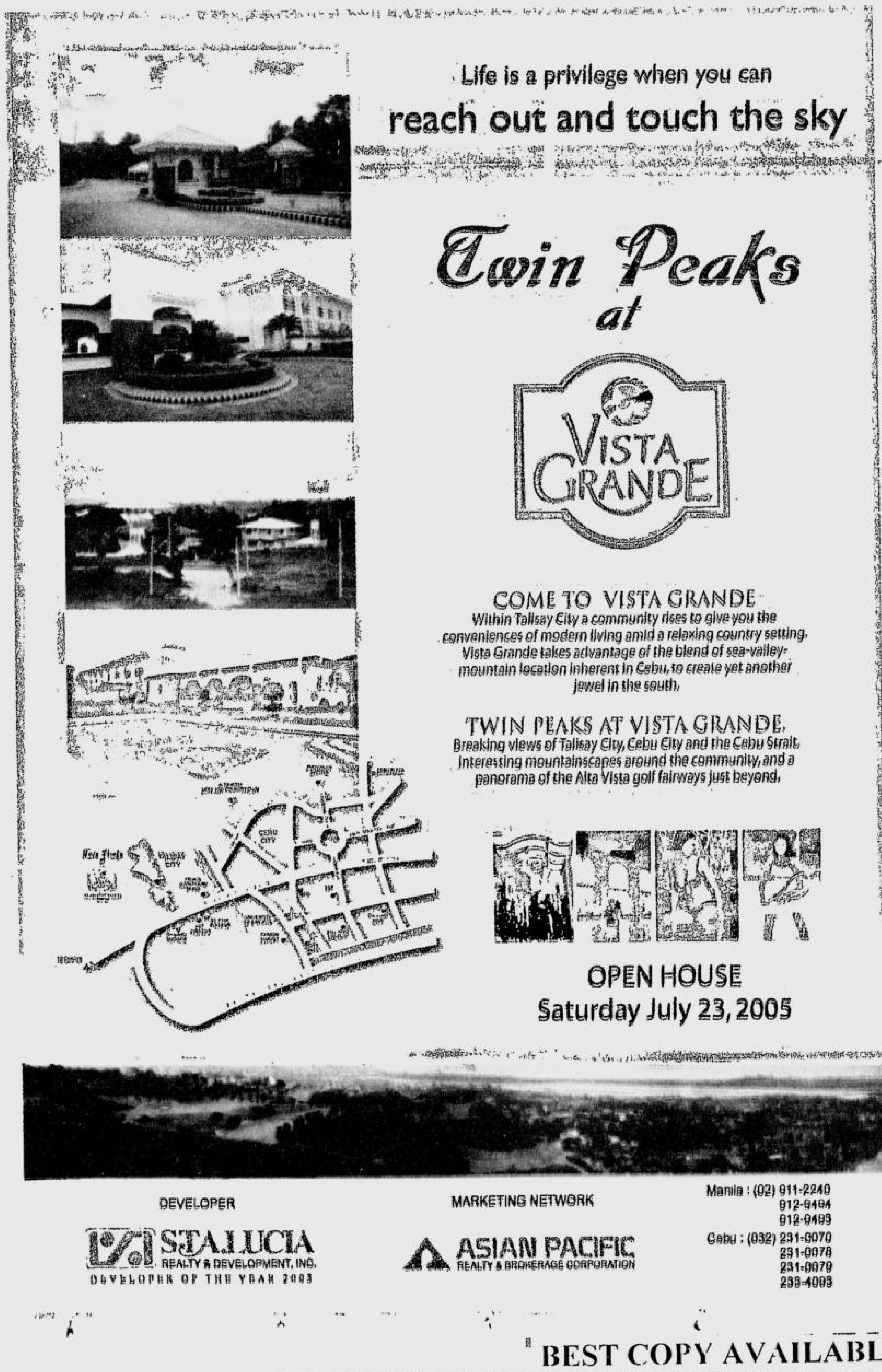
Lawyer Ferdinand Gujilde, the election officer of Mandaue City, said it was impossible to manipulate ERs unless there was a grand conspiracy to cheat from the precinct level up to the Mandaue board of canvassers, with the consent of poll watchers and lawyers from both the administration and opposition camps.

Gujilde said Legarda made a very vague accusation when she claimed there were election returns in Mandaue that appeared to have been prepared by only one person.

Gujilde said there were 763 election returns in Mandaue representing the same number of precincts in the city and alterations of the ERs could not happen because it was impossible that different ERs would be prepared by one person.

He said the preparation of the ER by the members of the precinct's Board of Election Inspectors (BEI) was very transparent because it was witnessed by the watchers of both camps. When the ERs were brought to the City Board of Canvassers, they were also accompanied by the watchers of both camps.

He said records would show that lawyers both from Legarda's and the administration's camps were present and did not raise any questions involving electoral fraud during the five-day canvassing of returns in Mandaue City.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reach out and touch the sky

Twin Peaks at VISTA GRANDE

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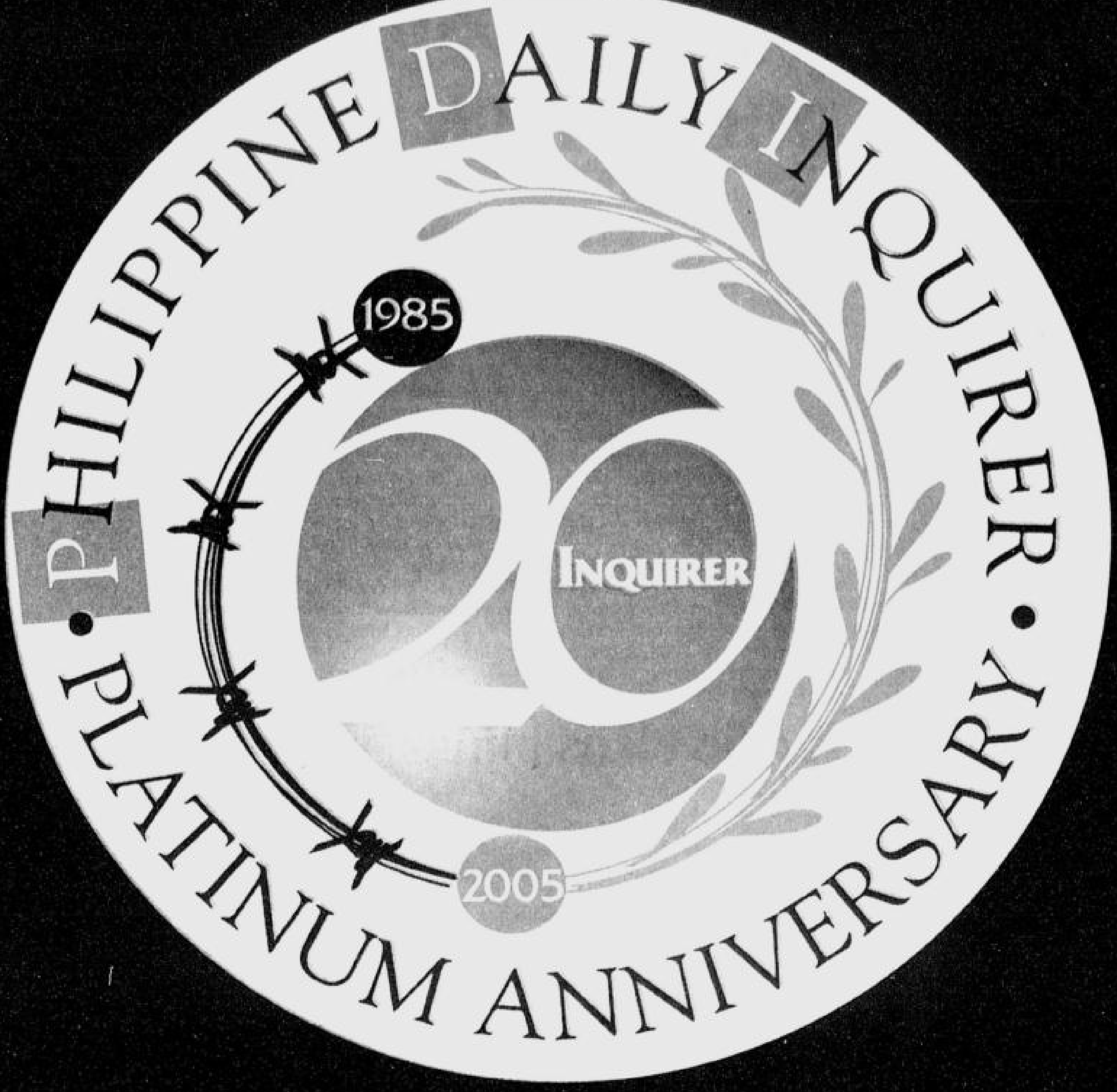
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INQUIRER Platinum Code

To celebrate 20 years of bringing balanced news and fearless views, we are giving away P20,000 in cash weekly, and up to P200,000 in cash in the grand draw of the Inquirer Platinum Code! From July 17 to December 3, 2005 simply answer the Inquirer Platinum Code question of the day using the highlighted letters as your clue. For SMART, Globe, or Sun Cellular subscribers, text in your answer to 29768. Your correct answer will be your raffle entry for the day!

Grab a copy of the Philippine Daily Inquirer and text in your answer today!

1. The promo is open to all Philippine Daily Inquirer readers who are either Smart, Globe, or Sun subscribers via access number 29768.
2. From July 17, 2005 to December 3, 2005, all Philippine Daily Inquirer issues will have The Inquirer Platinum Code portion with a question and the PDI Platinum logo. The Inquirer Platinum logo will have the words PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER PLATINUM ANNIVERSARY in it. The logo shall have highlighted letters that will form the answer to the trivia question.
3. Simply gather and unscramble the letters to form the answer to the question. Highlighted letters may be used more than once.
4. To join the promo, the subscriber-reader initially texts **PDI**<space>**20**<space>**answer**<space>**name/address/age/gender** and sends this to **29768**. Example: **PDI 20 ANSWER Jonah Imperial/#1 Paco St., Makati/22/F**. For succeeding answers, the registered subscriber simply sends **PDI**<space>**20**<answer>**answer** to **29768**. Each entry sent is P2.50.
5. There can only be one registered name per cellular phone number. Once a subscriber answers with their registration details, no one else will be allowed to register using the same cellular number. In the event that the winning cellular number was registered under two names, the first registered name will be recognized. However, one person can register several mobile numbers at one time.
6. Each answer sent shall be assigned a raffle entry for a chance to win in the weekly and grand draws. A participant may text his/her answer to the day's question a maximum of 3 times only.
7. Entries earned for the week from 12mn, Sunday to 11:59pm, Saturday will qualify for the week's draw. Non-winning entries for the week will not be included in the succeeding weekly draws but will be qualified for the grand draw.
8. Prizes at stake are as follows:
   Weekly Prize: **One (1) winner – P 20,000 in Cash**
   Grand Prize: **One (1) winner – P 200,000 in Cash**
   Note: The 20% tax on prizes exceeding P10,000 shall be shouldered by the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

	Period Covered	Draw Dates	Prize
Week 1	Jul 17 – 23	Jul 26	P20,000.00
Week 2	Jul 24 – 30	Aug 2	P20,000.00
Week 3	Jul 31 – Aug 6	Aug 9	P20,000.00
Week 4	Aug 7-13	Aug 16	P20,000.00
Week 5	Aug 14-20	Aug 23	P20,000.00
Week 6	Aug 21-27	Aug 30	P20,000.00
Week 7	Aug 28-Sept 3	Sept 6	P20,000.00
Week 8	Sept 4-10	Sept 13	P20,000.00
Week 9	Sept 11-17	Sept 20	P20,000.00
Week 10	Sept 18-24	Sept 27	P20,000.00
Week 11	Sept 25-Oct 1	Oct 4	P20,000.00
Week 12	Oct 2-8	Oct 11	P20,000.00
Week 13	Oct 9-15	Oct 18	P20,000.00
Week 14	Oct 16-22	Oct 25	P20,000.00
Week 15	Oct 23-29	Nov 1	P20,000.00
Week 16	Oct 30-Nov 5	Nov 8	P20,000.00
Week 17	Nov 6-12	Nov 15	P20,000.00
Week 18	Nov 13-19	Nov 22	P20,000.00
Week 19	Nov 20-26	Nov 29	P20,000.00
Week 20	Nov 7 – Dec 3	Dec 6	P20,000.00
Grand Draw	**Jul 17-Dec 3**	**Dec 6**	**P200,000.00**

9. All draws shall be held at the Information Gateway Office, 3rd Floor, Jaycem Building, Rada Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City. at 4:00 p.m.
10. A person can win as many times in the weekly and grand draws.
    All winners shall initially be notified by a call on their registered cellphone number and by registered mail. The list of winners shall also be published within 2 weeks after the grand draw.
11. Prizes may be claimed at the Philippine Daily Inquirer office nearest their registered address as specified in the registered mail. To claim the prize, simply present your letter of notification, winning SIM, a valid ID (eg. driver's license, Philippine passport, company/school ID with picture), **and the Inquirer Platinum Code cut-out**.
12. Winners have until 60 days to claim their prize. Prizes not claimed within the given period shall be forfeited in favor of the sponsor with prior approval from DTI.
13. Employees of Philippine Daily Inquirer, its advertising and promo agencies, its content provider, including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.

INQUIRER

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4227. Series of 2005.

ROGER MARGALLO

LEADERSHIP expert and INQUIRER columnist John Maxwell and wife Margarett Irene are welcomed by Naia passenger service deputy collector Tess Roque upon their arrival on Thursday. Maxwell will hold a series of seminars here in the course of his Asian Tour 2005.

5 gov't hospitals close due to lack of nurses, doctors

By Volt Contreras

THE LURE of high-paying nursing jobs abroad has doubled the number of nursing schools in the country but has drained medical services in several state-owned hospitals in the provinces, according to former Health Secretary Jaime Galvez Tan.

Three hospitals in Mindanao and two others in Isabela "are now technically closed … because there are no available doctors and nurses to service their patients," Galvez Tan said in a briefing for foreign diplomats at the Ateneo Professional Schools in Makati City yesterday.

The hospitals have been "reduced to midwife clinics," he said.

The Philippines is the world's "No. 1 exporter of nurses," Galvez Tan said. He estimated that 85 percent of the total number of Filipino nurses were working overseas.

From 2000 to 2003, more than 50,000 nurses left the country to seek better employment, mostly in the Middle East, Canada, Britain and the United States, he said.

Doctor nurses

In 2004, a more alarming phenomenon emerged: Doctors turning into nursing just to take an easy path out of the country.

At least 1,500 Filipino doctors left last year to become nurses abroad, Galvez Tan said. Today, an estimated 6,000 more doctors are enrolled in local schools offering "abbreviated nursing courses" for them, he said.

Galvez Tan, speaking as a trustee of the nongovernment Medical Action Group, tackled the nursing exodus as a factor causing Filipinos to be denied their "right to health," one of the topics in the briefing held by the Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates.

The brain drain in the health profession has inevitably hurt the public health system, said Galvez Tan, who served as health secretary during the Ramos administration.

Some hospitals in the provinces, he said, have been reduced to a medical staff of one—usually the solitary midwife—to avert shutdown.

Lone midwife

"They remained open despite having no capacity to have patients confined," he said. "Closing a hospital has become a political decision because the town mayor worries he may not get reelected."

And yet, Galvez Tan reported, the number of nursing schools in the country has more than doubled over the past few years, from 170 in 2001 to 370 in 2004.

But, again, the increase produced ironic results.

"The quality of our nursing education has deteriorated as indicated by the decline in the proportion of nursing graduates who pass licensure examinations," he said.

Since 2000, successful examinees have accounted for only 44 percent of those who took the tests, Galvez Tan said. The figure used to hover around 70 percent in the 1990s, he added.

Pacific Plans blinks, will pay plan holders

From page A1

"Management of Pacific and leaders of the PEP Coalition have today agreed to revisit the plan holders' entitlements particular to Pacific's traditional educational offerings under the former's proposed rehabilitation plan before the Regional Trial Court of Makati with the end view of casting an alternative formula which may then be presented to the court for its consideration and approval," PPI president Ernesto Garcia and PEP Coalition president Philip Piccio said in the joint statement yesterday.

Piccio and Garcia said they were giving themselves 15 to 30 days to come up with ways for the company to come up with the estimated P3.5 billion to P5 billion needed to satisfy all the claims of holders of traditional or open-ended education plans.

Regardless of amount

These plans stipulate that PPI will shoulder the tuition of beneficiaries regardless of the amount. In contrast, a beneficiary of a fixed plan is only entitled to a fixed amount upon enrollment. Because of rising tuition, PPI stopped selling open-ended plans in 1992.

The settlement came three months after PPI filed for rehabilitation with Makati Judge Romeo Barza. PPI said then that it was no longer financially capable of paying for its obligations to some 34,000 holders of open-ended or traditional education plans.

Earlier, the Yuchengcos, owner of the pre-need firm, transferred 400,000 fixed plans from PPI to a newly formed company called Lifetime Plans, leaving PPI with the 34,000 open-ended plans.

The PEP Coalition, composed of some 5,000 plan holders who hold an average of around two to three plans each, opposed the rehabilitation of the company. It said PPI was financially stable and that management was just looking for a way to escape its obligations to plan holders.

While beneficiaries of PPI traditional plans will get tuition support under the settlement, those of troubled pre-need firms like the College Assurance Plan may not. Checks issued by CAP to cover tuition of its beneficiaries had bounced, prompting plan holders to sue it.

Under the settlement between PPI and the PEP Coalition, the schedule of the payments and other details of the agreement have yet to be discussed.

Priority

PPI has agreed to give priority to beneficiaries who are "availing," or those who are due to enroll their children next semester.

"Management of Pacific is diligently working at providing or causing to be provided the necessary liquidity for the October enrollment to extend tuition support for availing plan holders, again creditable to their respective entitlements."

"As far as both parties are concerned, who wants a long drawn out legal battle? We don't want that. We think this is the best avenue for plan holders, the firms, the pre-need industry and the economy as a whole. This is a viable path to come up with a friendly and amicable agreement," Piccio told reporters.

Win-win solution

Garcia said credit should be given to the two sides for coming up with a a win-win solution.

He said Helen Yuchengco-Dee, daughter of Alfredo Yuchengco and head of the Yuchengco Group of Companies, which owns PPI, was aware of the deal.

Garcia and Piccio said the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and Barza will be informed of the deal later. "We are optimistic the SEC will go with this (compromise)."

Garcia said the first order of the day for the two sides is to find ways of "developing liquidity," which would mean a plan to "monetize" PPI's Napocor bonds worth around P7 billion upon maturity in 2010.

Vic Ortuste, a member of the PEP Coalition financial team, said that one possibility was to use PPI's Napocor bonds as collateral for a loan.

"We have to look for a way to liquefy the bonds without selling them. An example is taking out a loan against it (bonds)," he said.

Some of the corporate assets and earnings of another Yuchengco firm Lifetime Plans Inc. could be used to pay plan holders, Ortuste said. He stressed that 75 percent of the total assets of Lifetime were in the form of the Napocor bonds.

On May, the Securities and Exchange Commission revoked Lifetime Plans' incorporation, a decision that could lead to a return of Lifetime Plans under PPI's wing.

Monetize trust fund

Another possibility is to monetize the traditional plans' trust fund and convert it as payment to the plan holders, according to Piccio.

Whether there would be an infusion of funds from other sources, particularly from the Yuchengco family, Garcia said this would have to be seen.

The two sides had to first settle the "valuation" of the plans. Management had offered to pay for the plans according to their original purchase price plus 7 percent interest.

But Piccio said his group rejected the offer and said they would accept nothing less than the current value of the plan. This was later accepted by management.

Margarito Teves

Earlier, the PEP Coalition threatened to file criminal charges against the Yuchengco family and officers of the PPI and its trustee bank Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., which include newly appointed Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, who was an independent board member of the bank.

The coalition also planned to file charges against the same people for violation of Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas rules.

Opening communication lines

Piccio said negotiations between the two sides started when the PEP Coalition was set to hold a rally in Manila to protest the renaming of the Nueva Street in Binondo to Alfredo Yuchengco Street last month.

Piccio said Manila Mayor Lito Atienza asked the group to forego the rally. PEP Coalition members agreed, but demanded that Atienza open the lines of communication between the coalition and the Yuchengcos.

Atienza, whose daughter Maile is also a Pacific Plan holder, then asked Manila Councilor Don Bagatsing to broker the talks. Bagatsing once worked for Grepalife, another Yuchengco company.

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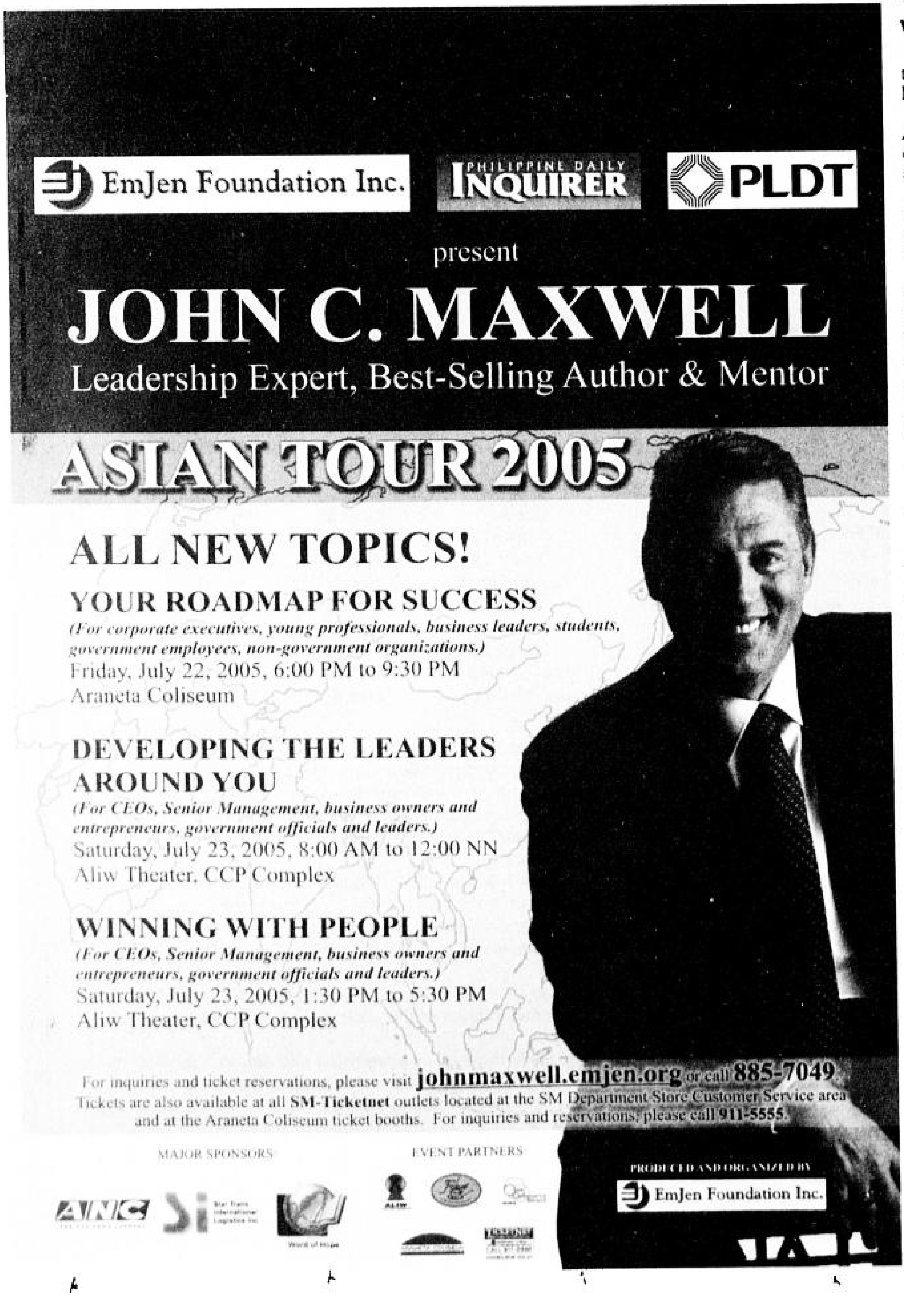

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PDI launches promo: Attention, wordsmiths

From page A1

Every day, for the next 20 weeks starting on July 17, the INQUIRER Platinum Code has challenged readers to form words out of the highlighted letters on the logo of the PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER PLATINUM ANNIVERSARY. The highlighted letters may be used more than once to form the word of the day.

The word of the day is the answer to the clue or trivia question found right under the logo.

Where to look

There are two ways to find the INQUIRER Platinum Code of the day. For newspaper readers, the INQUIRER Platinum Code of the day will appear every day on the second to the last page of the main section. Or, you can also go to INQUIRER's corporate website at www.inquirer.com.ph.

There will be a one-time registration for the promo. To register, text PDI<space>20<space>answer<space>name/ address/age/gender and send to 29768. This access number covers Smart, Globe, or Sun subscribers.

Registered subscribers can begin answering every day. To answer, registered subscribers send PDI<space>20<space>answer to 29768.

There will only be one registered name per cell phone number. In the event the winning cell number was registered under two names, the first registered name will be recognized.

Weekly, grand draws

Each answer sent shall be assigned a raffle entry which has a chance to win in the weekly and grand draws.

A participant may text his/her answer to the day's question a maximum of three times only.

Entries earned for the week from midnight Sunday to 11:59 p.m. Saturday will qualify for the week's draw.

Non-winning entries for the week will not be included in the succeeding weekly draws but will be qualified for the grand draw.

The weekly winner will win P20,000 in cash. The winner in the grand draw, which will be held on Dec. 6, 2005, will receive P200,000.

All draws shall be held at the Information Gateway Office at Jaycem Building, Rada Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City.

More details on page A19.

By the way, don't forget to cut the INQUIRER Platinum Code. If you're the winner, you need to present this before you can claim your prize. Also bring the letter of notification you received and a valid ID.

Well, start looking for the INQUIRER Platinum Code logo daily up to Dec. 3 and text your answer as soon as you've unscrambled the highlighted letters.

For more details, read the INQUIRER Platinum Code promo's full-page ad today on page A19.

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METRO

Editor **Ester G. Dipasupil**

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FX routes now legit, says LTFRB

By Clarissa Batino

ASIAN utility vehicles (AUVs) and vans plying "FX" routes are now legitimate public utility vehicles, following an order issued by the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board yesterday.

The order defines and clarifies the legitimacy of the loosely-regulated FXs. Slated for publication today, the order takes effect in 15 days.

Based on the order, the LTFRB allows the conversion of about 9,000 PUV franchises in limbo into AUV or Van Express franchises, provided that owners have active permits and will shell out a P30,000 conversion fee, which is payable in two to four installments.

LTFRB chair Maria Elena Bautista said the board will not issue new franchises but will only allow conversion. The new franchises are valid for five years.

Qualified conversions

Qualified for conversion are AUVs and vans that are no more than 13 years old, don't have jump seats, and are not liftbacks.

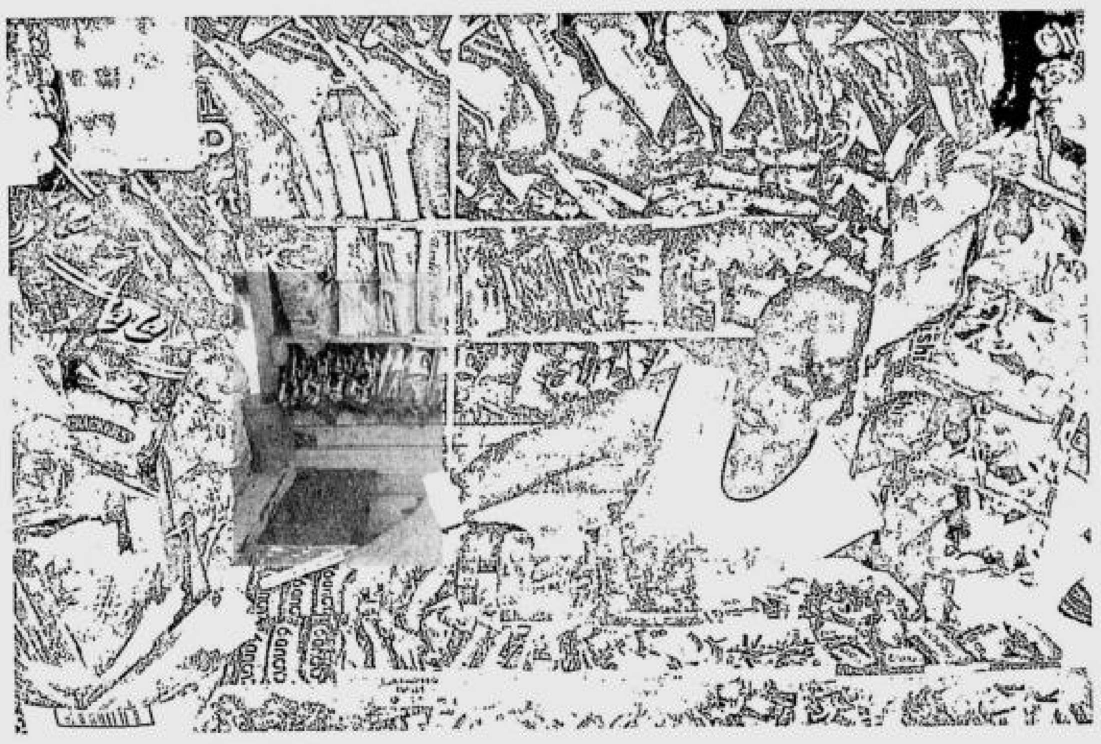
The FXs, which have become a convenient form of public transport for commuters, must also carry their passengers from terminal to terminal.

They are not allowed to pick up and drop off passengers midway, and their bodies, including their bumpers, must be painted all in white.

Bautista said the board has yet to decide on the fare scheme for the AUV Express.

The chair said she preferred a per-kilometer fare, although the board said it would also consider the existing fare of for-hire PUVs of P6 for the first five kilometers plus a peso for every succeeding kilometer.

FBI joins hunt for jeweler's son



SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL

ERIK ARAZAS

Rhoel Santos stocks his tiny *sari-sari* (variety) store with assorted snacks and colorful goods to attract buyers in Mendiola, Manila.

By Tina G. Santos

THE FEDERAL Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has joined the hunt for the scion of a wealthy family linked to the murder of two brothers, according to the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

Jose Maria S. Panlilio, 55, son of late socialite jeweler Fe S. Panlilio, has been the subject of a manhunt after witnesses pointed to him as the gunman who shot to death half-brothers Ariel Real and Albert Gutierrez in Calamba, Laguna, two years ago.

"We have already coordinated with FBI authorities in the United States to track him down," NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said. "They said they are looking into valuable information regarding his whereabouts."

Panlilio had also been named by the Philippine National Police as one of the country's 20 most wanted men.

Records showed that on July 15, 2003, Real, who was then 28, and Gutierrez, then 31, met with Panlilio after the latter offered to sell them his Kia Starex van which he had pawned to a friend for P250,000.

The three were supposed to redeem the Starex, but Panlilio reportedly led the brothers to the Palacio Real Subdivision in Barangay Makiling, Laguna, where he allegedly killed the two.

The suspect, whose last known address was 1686 Dasmariñas Avenue, Dasmariñas Village, Makati City, also reportedly robbed the victims of P250,000.

Carmencita de Castro, the mother of the victims, earlier said that concerned citizens had raised the original P1-million reward to P2,020,000 for the suspect's capture.

"I hope this will help us get justice for my murdered sons," said De Castro, a lawyer who is handling the case of her two sons.

"I would like to appeal to the leadership of the national police to intensify their efforts and arrest this man," De Castro told reporters in an earlier interview.

Cam son safe, back in mom's arms

By Jocelyn R. Uy

SANDRA Cam, "jueteng" whistleblower, was reunited with her eldest son Paolo yesterday morning.

On Tuesday, Cam feared for Paolo's life when the 17-year-old boy failed to call or text her after he supposedly came home from classes at the Airlink International Aviation School in Pasay City.

At 1 a.m. yesterday, she discovered that he was in a hotel in Rawis, Legazpi City, she told the INQUIRER.

How and why Paolo ended up in Legazpi City, about a 12-hour drive from Metro Manila, she had yet to know from her son.

"My son does not even know where Legazpi City is. It was his first time [there]," she said.

"He might have been affected by my situation," she said, adding that she and her son shared a close relationship.

She also said Paolo might be having a hard time adjusting to their situation, since she has to move from one safehouse to another.

Cam has testified before the Senate that she delivered "jueteng payoffs" to President Macapagal-Arroyo's son, Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo, and brother-in-law, Negros Occidental Rep. Ignacio Arroyo.

After going "missing" since Tuesday, Paolo called up Cam Wednesday at 5:45 p.m.

At about 10 p.m., Cam called Paolo but gave the phone to her fellow whistleblower, Wilfredo "Boy" Mayor, after she became "emotional."

Later, Paolo told Cam that he was in Room 5 of the Carlos Hometel in Legazpi City. The boy also said that he was with "friends" but did not say who they were.

Cam then asked one of her nephews who was in the military to pick up Paolo. Paolo took the 8:30 a.m. flight "incognito" from Legazpi City and arrived in Manila at about 9:30 a.m. yesterday.

At 11:30 a.m., he was reunited with Cam at the safehouse.

Makati cops sharpen basic grammar skills

By Tarra V. Quismundo

DID THE unidentified suspect really ran from the car to escaped? And where was the victim's dead body been found?

Puzzled by such questions too many times after reading poorly written investigation reports, officials of the Makati Police Department (MPD) have decided it was time to work on the basic written English skills of investigators.

Embarrassed

"The reports of our investigators are read by many people: police officials, complainants, prosecutors, judges, and members of the media," said Chief Insp. Manuel Santos Jr., MPD Criminal Investigation Division chief.

He added, "When people read mistakes in grammar, the investigation unit is embarrassed."

Santos said plans have already been laid down to make investigators undergo a refresher course in basic English and report writing, a pressing need the MPD leadership said it could no longer ignore.

Help from universities

"We would be coordinating with the University of Makati and the University of the Philippines to look into the possibility of having their professors teach investigators the basics of English," Santos said.

"What we need are brief, concise, clear and understandable reports," he added. "The courts base their facts on reports we submit, so writing reports in correct English is really important."

Santos said the training, which the MPD would also coordinate with the Makati City Hall, would be held in batches from August to September.

First woman president of UP takes over

By DJ Yap

EMERLINDA Roman

HISTORY, Emerlinda Roman hopes, will not just remember her as the first woman president of the University of the Philippines, but as the leader that helped make the State University a premier center of learning in the region.

For the 55-year-old Roman, the task at hand is not only regaining the glory that the institution may have lost, but also surpassing its past achievements.

The new UP president gave a glimpse of how she would accomplish these goals yesterday during formal investiture rites at the Diliman campus in Quezon City.

The next six years will see a concerted effort to transform UP into a national university at par with the best schools in Asia and the world, Roman said.

By "national," she referred not only to its geographical sense, but also the depth and breadth of a UP education, as well as its role as the leading university with a nationalist orientation, she said.

Roman presented a 10-point plan to make the UP a center of excellence and culture, promote efficiency in the university, and propel the institution to its second century through its centennial celebration in 2008.

The main challenge is resource scarcity, as the government allocates less and less for the UP, Roman said.

Although the university would continue to vigorously campaign for higher state subsidy, she said it had begun looking at other income-generating schemes, such as enlisting more alumni support, selling idle assets or investing in science and technology parks.

Her plans include the rationalization of program offerings, strengthening of research and development, science and technology, improvement of administrative efficiency, review of tuition and financial assistance programs, and upgrading of faculty, staff and student welfare benefits.

Roman also said the university had made representations with Malacañang to declare 2008 "the UP Centennial Year."

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De Veyra burial

THE REMAINS of Adrian "Andoy" de Veyra, an elder of the Bread of Life Christian Church, now lie at the Loyola Memorial Chapel in Guadalupe, Makati City.

De Veyra died in the early morning of July 18, Monday, of multiple organ failure due to complications caused by cancer.

He is survived by his wife Malou and children Patrick, Sarah, Joshua, Isaiah and Hanna.

De Veyra was the founding director of Turning Point, a drug rehabilitation center of Bread of Life in Silang, Cavite.

He will be buried on Saturday, July 23, 10 a.m. at the Divine Mercy Memorial Park in Silang, Cavite.

A worship service will be led by the church's senior pastor Rev. Butch Conde tomorrow, Thursday, at 7:30 p.m.

CWL to hold special day of recollection

THE CATHOLIC Women's League (CWL) Philippines Inc. invites everyone to a special day of recollection with Abbot Thomas Keating, OCSO.

The recollection will be held on Sunday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the UP Theater, Diliman, Quezon City.

The theme of the day will center on "Deepening your Relationship with God through Prayer."

For tickets and other details, please call 524-3729 or 523-2956.

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METROBRIEFS

Some QC kids given day off

STUDENTS and teachers of schools along Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City will have the day off on Monday because of an expected mammoth rally to coincide with the President's State of the Nation Address at nearby Batasang Pambansa. Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. said thousands of students of schools like the Commonwealth High School and Batasan Hills National High School should just stay home. He said the students would only contribute to traffic buildup. They might also get hurt should violence erupt during the demonstration, he said. *DJ Yap*

WALANG PASOK!

No money, no play

SORRY children, you may soon lose your "credit line" at your favorite computer gaming shops in Marikina City. A new ordinance awaiting the signature of Mayor Marides Fernando will prohibit computer shop owners from allowing children to play games on credit. Vice Mayor Marion Andres said he proposed the regulation after one of his children incurred more than P100 in debt in one of Marikina's computer shops. First-time violators face a P1,000 fine. A second violation will entail a P2,000 fine and the revocation of their business permit. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

BAWAL NA ANG UTANG

Mandaluyong P16-M facelift

A BUTTERFLY sanctuary, a gazebo with waterfalls and fountain, a covered pavilion, a rest area, a lane for joggers and a garden at City Hall grounds. These will be part of a P16-million rehabilitation project to be undertaken by the Mandaluyong City government. This is aside from the P2.4 million the city will spend for a new attendance monitoring system. Maysilo Circle, which was submerged in almost thigh-deep floodwater last week, will also be fenced again. Lampposts similar to those at Baywalk Park in Manila will be erected on the sidewalks. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

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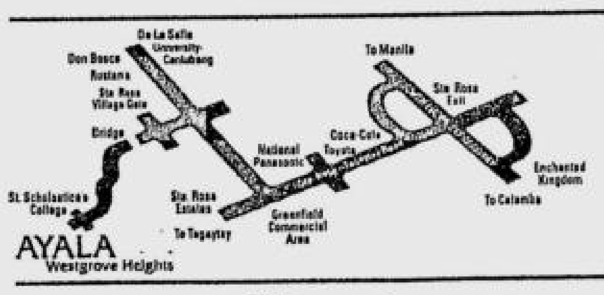

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SPORTS TV
Compiled by L. Mangulat

GOLF: Evian Masters; 2 p.m. and 9 p.m.; STAR Sports—Check out the replay of Round Two then witness Round Three unfold.
BASEBALL: MLB-9 a.m. (r-5:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.); ESPN—The action heats up in the second half of the season.
CYCLING: Tour de France, Stage 18; 5 p.m.; ESPN—Can Lance Armstrong win his seventh title?
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Tams clip Eagles; Falcons score

By Jasmine W. Payo

THINGS continue to run smoothly for the Far Eastern U Tamaraws.

Flashing their dominance early on, the Tamaraws smothered the Ateneo Eagles, 65-54, at the Araneta Coliseum yesterday to claim a share of the lead in the UAAP basketball tournament.

And coach Bert Flores had nothing much to complain after his Tamaraws joined the idle University of the Philippines Maroons on top at 3-0.

"We were able to do our game plan, which is to stop (LA) Tenorio," said Flores. "We limited him to five points in the first half. Even if we relaxed in the fourth period, we were still able to bring our lead up again."

Arwind Santos was back in top form for FEU, finishing with 15 points and 12 rebounds after struggling in his first two games.

The Tamaraws also banked on the strong play of senior guard RJ Rizada, who shot nine of his 15 points in the first half.

Earlier, the Adamson Falcons improved to 2-1 after hammering out an 83-68 triumph over the University of Santo Tomas Tigers.

Burly forward Jojo Hate, who led the Falcons with 16 points and 11 rebounds, teamed up with center Ken Bono and forward Roel Hugnatan to give Adamson an early double-digit lead.

"Adamson is back, that's the way we played all summer," said coach Mel Alas after tying for third with University of the East. "Our defense was there. We also scouted their (Tigers') offense."

The Eagles slipped to a 1-2 record along with rival La Salle, while the Tigers remained winless in three games together with the National Bulldogs.

Showing complete control in the first half, the Tamaraws led by 15 points, 32-17, behind Rizada and Santos, then opened the third period with a 13-2 tear, capped by a Santos triple, for a 24-point bubble, 45-21.

The Eagles staged a 14-2 run that sliced the lead to 59-45, then made one final push in the closing minutes that narrowed the gap to nine points, 63-54, at the 1:11 mark.

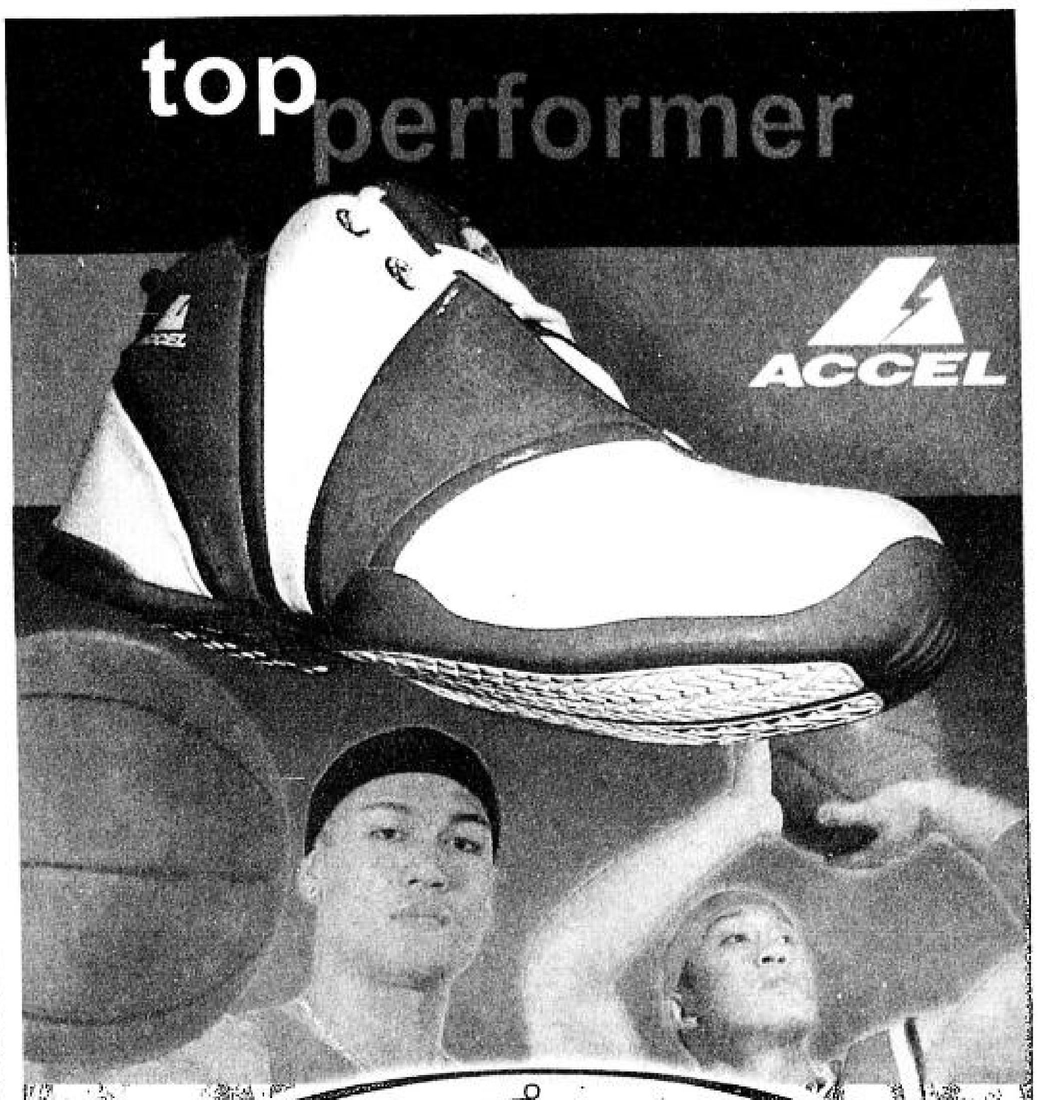
The scores:

First Game

ADAMSON 83—Hate 16, Cabahug 13, Hugnatan 12, Bono 11, Yong 8, Tiongco 6, Canuday

TAMS/ A24

BURLY Jojo Hate (right) and Marc Agustin of Adamson control possession against Dylan Ababou of UST. AUGUST DELA CRUZ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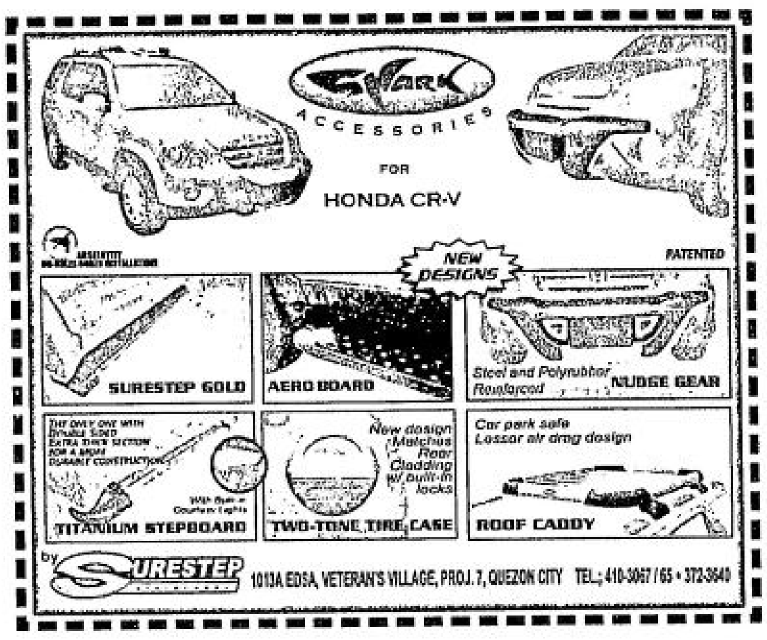
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Sputtering finish dooms RP dribblers vs Nigerians

THE PHILIPPINES' offense conked out in the clutch, allowing Nigeria to escape with a 68-62 win Wednesday night (Thursday in Manila) at the close of the Global Hoops Summit at the Cox Pavilion on the University of Nevada at Los Angeles campus.

Former Los Angeles Lakers guard Ime Udoka shot eight of his 19 points in the fourth period as Nigeria held on to beat the Philippines, which missed top gunner Ren-ren Ritualo due to a strained left calf muscle.

The Filipinos wound up with a 2-win, 3-loss card, while the Nigerians finished at 3-2 after taking their last three games.

Showing new-found cohesion, the Filipinos were able to force the Nigerians to eight lead changes before Udoka sparked a 10-1 blast that ripped the game apart, 64-54, with 4 minutes and 15 seconds to go.

The Philippines countered with a 6-point surge but Koko Archibong sank a 15-footer and Udoka, who also grabbed 10 rebounds, scored another basket to seal the outcome.

After scoring only nine in the first quarter, the Filipinos were able to wrest the lead at 30-29 on a Kerby Raymundo basket with 2:40 to go in the second quarter where Dondon Hontiveros poured in 11 of his 16 points.

National coach Chot Reyes used several defensive ploys in the third period, ordering a full-court press, halfcourt trap, a zone and finally man-to-man.

Tony de la Cruz gave the Filipinos their last lead at 41-38 before the Nigerians pulled ahead when RP's shooting cooled off.

The Nigerians stood their ground when the Filipinos went on a driving attack and rejected 10 RP attempts. In contrast, the Filipinos only had one block.

Don Allado sprained his left ankle in the second quarter, limped back to join Ritualo at the bench and didn't play again. Their absence took a heavy toll on Reyes' rotation.

Organizers later awarded Reyes the official game ball in recognition of the Philippines as the league's most exciting performer.

The Philippines' 93-92 upset of the 2003 American Basketball Association champion Long Beach Jam was regarded as the most thrilling game in the Summit.

Reyes said RP's failure to execute in the homestretch proved fatal against Nigeria.

"We stayed in the game playing against NBA veterans and international imports," he noted. "We did a lot of things defensively that worked. It was our offense that failed us. We could've used Ren-Ren in the game."

The scores:

NIGERIA 68—Ibekwe 21, Udoka 19, Varem 8, Archibong 6, Lesage 6, Badmus 4, Oguchi 4. Oguwidere 0.

RP 62—Hontiveros 16, De la Cruz 10, Adducul 9, Helterbrand 9, Williams 8, Cortez 5, Raymundo 2, Yap 2, Alvarez 1, Thoss 0, Allado 0, Mamaril 0.

Halftime: 33-30.

Najorda-less Stags take on Bombers

CAN the San Sebastian Stags sustain their winning run without veteran forward Leo Najorda?

The Stags' chief gunner will be serving his one-game suspension today when they shoot for their fourth straight win against the luckless Jose Rizal U Bombers in the NCAA basketball tournament at 4 p.m. at the Cuneta Astrodome.

STANDINGS	W	L
PCU	6	0
Letran	6	0
Mapua	4	2
Benilde	3	3
SSC	3	3
Perpetual	1	5
San Beda	1	5
JRU	0	6

GAMES TODAY
(*Cuneta Astrodome*)
11:30 a.m.—San Beda vs Perpetual (Jrs)
2 p.m.—San Beda vs Perpetual (Srs)
4 p.m.—SSC vs JRU (Srs)
6 p.m.—SSC vs JRU (Jrs)

Najorda was ejected for a wayward elbow in the Stags' high-wire 76-75 win in overtime against the University of Perpetual Help Altas last Monday.

SSC coach Turo Valenzona was also thrown out for excessive complaining in the same game but only received a stern warning from the league.

The San Beda Lions and the Altas gun for their second win when they collide earlier at 2 p.m.

The Stags recovered from a dismal 0-3 start to move up to fourth place with St. Benilde at 3-3.

Leaning heavily on Red Vicente, the Stags bucked the ejection of Najorda and Valenzona to forge a come-from-behind win against the Altas.

Vicente shot 25 points, including the game-winning three-point play in the closing seconds. The senior swingman then completed his heroics with a steal to foil the Altas' final play.

The Lions are hoping to also keep their momentum after their 71-44 triumph against the Bombers. Veterans Alex Angeles and Jerome Paterno teamed up for 44 points in the Lions' breakthrough victory.

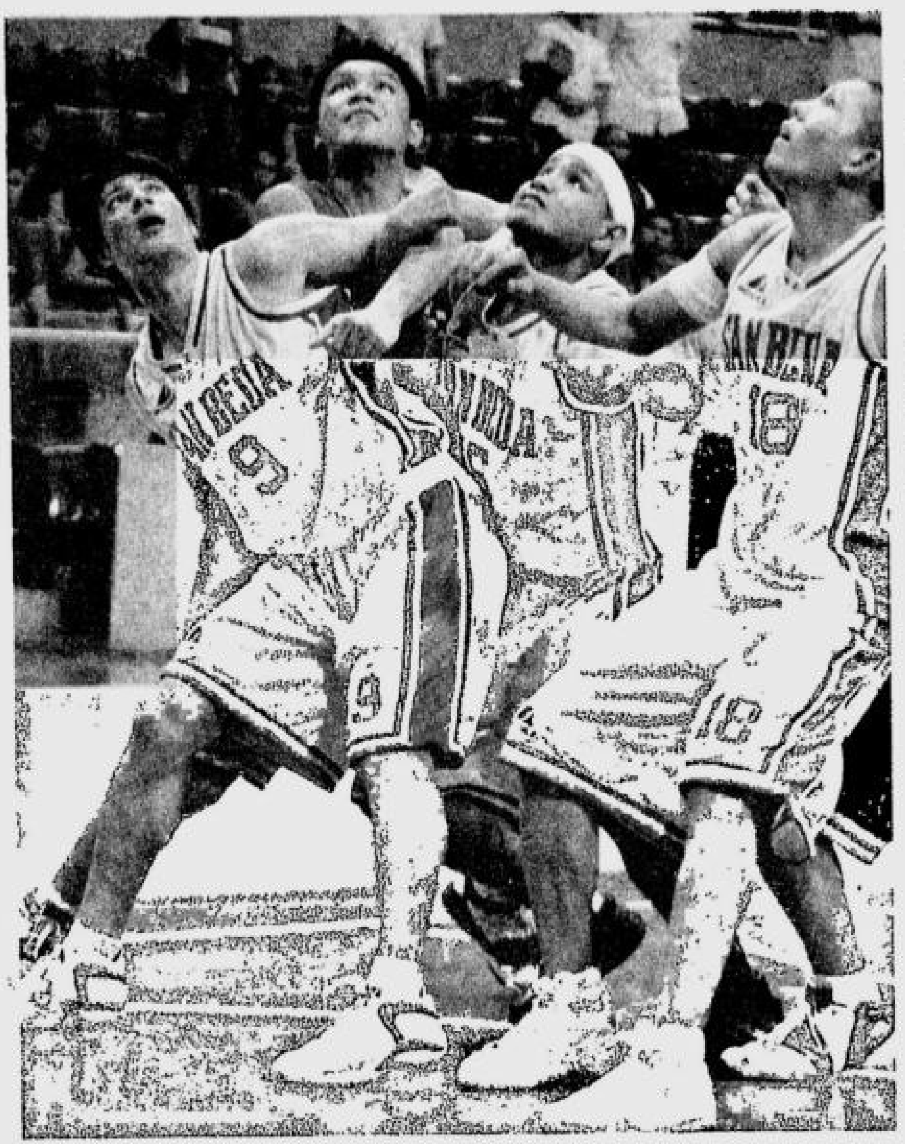
Lions coach Nash Racela, however, knows that the odds are still against his rookie-laden lineup. "We have a very young team so this is a good lesson for us," said Racela. "But we still have to think and believe that we can beat the other teams."

The Altas are also struggling with a young lineup. But the 2004 runners-up will try to bounce back behind sophomore swingman Fritz Bauzon.

In Wednesday's varsity matches, the Philippine Christian U Dolphins turned to last year's MVP and Rookie of the Year Gabby Espinas anew to send the faltering Blazers to their straight defeat, 63-49, and the Letran Knights nipped the Mapua Cardinals, 69-67.

The defending champion Dolphins and the Knights share the top with 6-0 records.

Jasmine W. Payo



A PHALANX of San Beda defenders prevent San Sebastian's chief gunner Leo Najorda (second from left) from getting to the ball in the game last July 13. Najorda will sit out today's match against Jose Rizal U. RUDY ESPERAS

Tams clip Eagles . . .

From page A23

6,Gonzaldo 5, Tajonera 2, Capati 2, Agustin 2, Basilio 0.

UST 68—Pribhdas 13, Dizon 11, Allera 9, De Guzman 7, Ababou 7, Evangelista 6, Espiritu 5, Duncil 4, Taylor 2, Crisostomo 2, Canlas 2, Cuan 0, Cortez 0, Apil 0.

Quarters: 29-18, 48-30, 67-43, 83-68

Second Game

FEU 65—Santos 15, Rizada 15, Isip 10, Chan 9, Jo. Villanueva 5, Mangahas 4, Barcellano 4, Je. Villanueva 1, Fernandez 1, Dela Cruz 1, Saldua 0, Flores 0, Adolfo 0.

ATENEO 54—Tenorio 18, Kramer 13, Laterre 5, Membrere 4, Intal 3, Escalona 3, Quimson 2, Nazareno 2, Arao 2, Aguilar 2, Reyes 0, Del Rosario 0, Barracoso 0.

Quarters: 21-13, 32-19, 55-31, 65-54.

GAMES TOMORROW (*Araneta Coliseum*)
10 a.m.—UP vs UE (Jrs)
12 p.m.—Adamson vs La Salle (Jrs)
2 p.m.—UP vs UE (Srs)
4 p.m.—Adamson vs La Salle (Srs)

Asia-Pacific bronco tilt under way

GAMES TODAY (*Sto. Niño Baseball Field*)
10 a.m.—Opening Ceremonies
11 a.m.—RP vs Japan
1 p.m.—Marikina vs Chinese Taipei

POWERHOUSE Chinese-Taipei takes on host Marikina City and co-favorite Japan battles Team Philippines as the 2005 Asia Pacific Zone Bronco Baseball Championship gets under way today at the Sto. Niño Baseball grounds in Marikina City.

The tall, big-hitting Taiwanese represented the region in the World Series last year after beating South Korea to last year's title in Beijing.

Open to players 11-12 years old, the four-day event stakes a berth in the Bronco Baseball World Series slated Aug. 4-10 in Monterey, California, where Puerto Rico is the reigning champion.

Marikina Mayor Maria Lourdes Fernando and Rodolfo "Boy" Tingzon Jr., president of the organizing Philippine Tot Baseball Foundation, will grace the 10 a.m. inaugurals set at the well-maintained field fronting the Marikina River.

"This is the first time the country is hosting this event," said Tingzon, who is the Southeast Asian regions' representative to the Pony Baseball/Softball International. "We're happy that it's going to be staged here in Marikina where the baseball program for the youth is really impressive."

Aside from Fernando and Tingzon, others guests include Shuhe Ugawa, the Japanese embassy's press officer, Chinese Taipei Economic and Cultural Office representative Wu Hsien-hsieng and Asia's founding tot baseball president Rodolfo Tingzon Sr.

Hornbills host C de Oro Stars

DAPITAN CITY—The Zanorte Hornbills try to break into the win column after eight frustrating games today when they host the Cagayan de Oro Stars in the 2005 Panasonic-NBC national basketball championship at the Sports Center here.

The Hornbills of Gov. Rolando Yebes and major supporters Dominador Jalosjos Jr. and Robert Uy expect a tough fight from the Stars of former Gov. Antonio Calingin in the 6 p.m. contest.

The Hornbills have released playmaker Ryan Dy to the Valencia Golden Harvest, but acquired veteran Paolo Malonzo from the Stars in a bid to improve their chances.

They're confident of ending their long slump today, especially after their last game against the Hapee/Dewfoam-backed Mantawi Sparkling Nights where they lost by a hairline, 78-79.

The Stars lost a 15-point lead before bowing also to the Nights, 85-94, in their last outing.

PLDT, SMC-Coke shuttlers show way; PDI scores

PLDT and San Miguel-Coke Export scored contrasting wins Wednesday night to share the Group 1 lead in the classic division of the 2005 Sportshouse-Carlton Corporate and Celebrity Cup Invitational Badminton tournament at the Club 650 in Libis, Quezon City.

PLDT stamped its class against 3M Philippines, 5-0, while San Miguel-Coke Export came from behind to beat Pagcor Sports, 3-2, as both victors remained unbeaten after three games.

Divina Gracia Escala and Cindy Quirante downed Lourdes Guerrero and Michelle Umali, 15-4, 15-6, while Adamsky Anacay and Val Ecalnir won over Bon Dulay and Bong Gregorio, 15-12, 15-10, to give Pagcor Sports a 2-0 lead.

But San Miguel took the next three matches with victories coming from Denden Abuan and Amor Eliscupidez over Annie Sylim and Perlita Laforteza, 15-7, 15-2; Ron Mariano and Randy Gregorio over George Bolo and Jojo Ambayec, 15-8, 15-11; and Bojie Eliscupidez and Apple Baterina over Norman Viola and Michelle Lucero, 15-11, 15-7.

The Philippine Daily Inquirer outclassed Manila Bulletin, 4-1, to keep second spot at 2-1 followed by Pagcor Sports (1-2). Bulletin and 3M Philippines are winless in three outings.

In group 2, Meralco blasted Panasonic, 5-0, to stay on top at 3-0 while Celestron dumped NBI-NCR, 5-0, for its second straight win. Panasonic is third with a 1-2 mark while Slazenger and NBI-NCR have identical 0-2 cards.

Text messages for the 'Secretary of Injustice'

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

THIS is a cry for justice. Both painful and urgent.

It's been sounded out through a series of text messages.

But before anything else, it should be stated that this has nothing to do with the Gloriagate case that's popularly viewed as a shameless trampling of truth by the top residents of Malacañang and their frantic backers.

No taped phone talk. Of course, just like in the GMA-Garci phone conversations, there's also suspicion of wholesale fraud here.

It all started with a message, a rebuff of Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez who had brutalized former President Cory Aquino in defense of his beleaguered big boss in Malacañang.

Here's txt message No. 1: "Please advise Secretary of Injustice Raul Gonzalez to attend to the (blank) lovelife of his two (blank) sons, as they are both looking for (blank)! Pls pass on."

To those now wondering about the earthly preferences of Mr. Gonzalez's sons, please ask friends to help you fill in the blanks.

The censors might go after the INQUIRER and this reporter if we dared identify the texted abnormalities.

* * *

We don't know how many sons Secretary Gonzalez has got.

But, in keeping with the times, we sent the same text to a trusted communicator, a genuine worshipper of truth.

Replies Ms Rhea Navarro: "Ha, ha. But seriously, Gonzalez must look into the senseless death of Benedictine International School cager Kenji Kanai who was killed by a speeding car driven maniacally by one Timmy Abejuela. U see, instead of running mandatory tests on d suspect who allegedly is being protected by some impt men at PNP, suspect was given preferential treatment at an aircond rm n d police station. Gonzalez ought to do something about it to serve justice w/c he's expected to do rather than pick on women who are just expressing their honest views."

Please furnish basics of the case, we asked Ms Navarro. She continues:

"As written in Bill Velasco's column in the Star, Kenji and friends went out last Friday at about 4am, *inihatid cla ng kasama nilang lumabas sa* Katipunan overpass in front of Ateneo. As Kenji and friends were alighting they were hit by the car of Timmy Abejuela who was apparently driving in full speed. Kenji, one limb dismembered, was dragged a few meters after the impact. Suspect was brought to Camp Karingal. After the ABS CBN crew had left, suspect was brought into an airconditioned room. Reason *ni* Supt. Hermenigildo Valdez, so he could not escape, while the family of Kenji together with his friends were all out there. They ruled it an accident without first getting written testimonies from witnesses."

* * *

But you sound like you've been crying.

"Yes. There was gross injustice. When they next went to the fiscal who asked for blood n urine tests for banned substance, the assigned cop brought suspect to East Ave. Med Ctr, and not to Camp Crame as agreed upon. *Plaka ng kotse nung* suspect PNP *daw* and curiously when they went to the fiscal's office the assigned cop rode in the private car of the suspect."

So what's the state of the case?

"*Wala man lang lumapit mag*-offer to help the family until Kenji was buried on Tuesday. Instead, word got around that one SENATOR and a high PNP official were working to fix the case. *Natural*, bitter *ang* family, *namatayan na, ayaw pang bigyan ng* justice."

Whew! How gory and sad.

"Only consolation of the family: a lot of people condoled, with more people joining the funeral march wearing white T-shirts with the words 'WE LOVE KENJI.' Hope this government could do something to correct the grave injustice. I know I had stepped on the toes of influential people, but I'm not afraid."

Why?

"I felt I had to do something aside from praying," says Rhea Navarro, "*Sana me gawin matino ang gubyerno dito.*"

Rhea is convinced illegal drugs were behind the senseless killing but an alleged cover-up has allowed the suspect to go out on bail.

By the way, "husbands" is one of three words that could fill the blanks in the gender puzzle on Secretary Gonzalez's sons.

MACAU GOVERNMENT TOURIST OFFICE PHILIPPINES

MACAU MASTER: Filipino motocross champion Glenn Aguilar (second from left) with Macau Government Tourist Office executives Narz Lim (left) and Jet Cabuslay (right), and National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (Namssa) chief Stephen Carapiet after topping the Macau 2005 FIM-UAM Asian Motocross Championships in the 125cc class recently. He bested 29 other racers from all over Asia and now leads the series' overall standings. For more information on the event, call 812-2595 and 813-0947 or log on to www.macautourism.gov.mo.

Huge Manila Marathon turnout expected Sunday

THE THIRD staging of the Manila Marathon has inspired a bandwagon of sorts as more runners from all sectors of society have signed up to vie for honors in the country's biggest ever foot race set this Sunday at the Rizal Park.

Arnold "Ali" Atienza, chief of the organizing Manila Sports Council, said that waiving the registration fees in exchange for donations of canned goods for indigent children in the provinces contributed greatly to the overwhelming support for the event.

"By stirring social consciousness through this endeavor, we project more than 40,000 runners from all walks of life would lend a helping hand for the needy kids," said the son of Manila Mayor Lito Atienza.

Also pledging support to the event backed by Nike, Pagcor, PCSO, Milo, Super Ferry, Gatorade, San Miguel Corp., IntrASports, and Concept Movers are runners from Manila's 897 barangay and colleges as well as the city's 130 public elementary and secondary schools.

BRAVE BUNCH: The members of the RP expedition to Mount Everest.

Another tough test for climbers

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE INTREPID members of the First Philippine Mount Everest Expedition take yet another step toward reaching their ultimate goal when they try to scale the icy peaks of Muztagh Ata in Pakistan starting next week.

Honing up their climbing skills since last year, the 17-man RP Team will this time try to conquer the 24,750-foot peak before taking on Mt. Everest—about 5,000 feet higher—in 2007.

"We have been preparing ourselves for the past few months, climbing mountains with tough, cold climate," said team leader Regie Pablo, who is on leave from Globe Telecommunications to head the expedition.

The Muztagh Ata is actually situated in western China, but the team will be scaling its north face through Pakistan. The hike to the snow-covered mountain will be broken into phases.

Expedition leader Art Valdez, the former Transportation and Communications undersecretary, said it would take them a month to reach the peak, adding they plan to climb it gradually so that members can acclimatize themselves to freezing temperature and thin air.

The team will set up a base camp at about 14,000 feet which will serve as their headquarters for the next 14 days. The plan is to conduct two practice ascents to various altitudes before attempting the final ascent on the 15th day.

The team has actually negotiated a number of climbs that simulate the conditions of the Earth's highest peak. They have been to Mt. Cook National Park in New Zealand where they scaled Mt. Aylmer and Tasman Glacier.

The other members of the team are Ari Ben Sebastian, Fred Jamili, Jong Narciso, Erwin Emata, Leo Oracion, Karina Davondon, Juan Anonuevo, Levi Nahayangan, Larry Honoridez, Janet Belarmino, Ariel Ambayec, Noelle Wenceslao, Dr. Ted Esguerra, John Tronco and Choi Aquino.

PBA-backed RP five vying in Jones Cup

By Musong R. Castillo

FIBA ban or not, the Philippines will be playing in the Jones Cup.

A crack selection of Philippine Basketball Association stars will campaign in the prestigious tournament in Taipei starting Saturday despite the suspension slapped by the international basketball federation (Fiba) on the country.

This was confirmed by a PBA official to the INQUIRER yesterday during a team-building seminar for members of the Commissioner's Office in Clark Field, Pampanga.

"We got a go-signal from the (Jones Cup) organizers," said the official. "This tournament is an important part in the training program of Coach Chot Reyes."

COACH Chot will handle a new team.

The PBA will welcome back today members of the RP team which fared well in the Global Hoops Summit in Las Vegas, Nevada, before dispatching a different squad for the Taiwan event tomorrow.

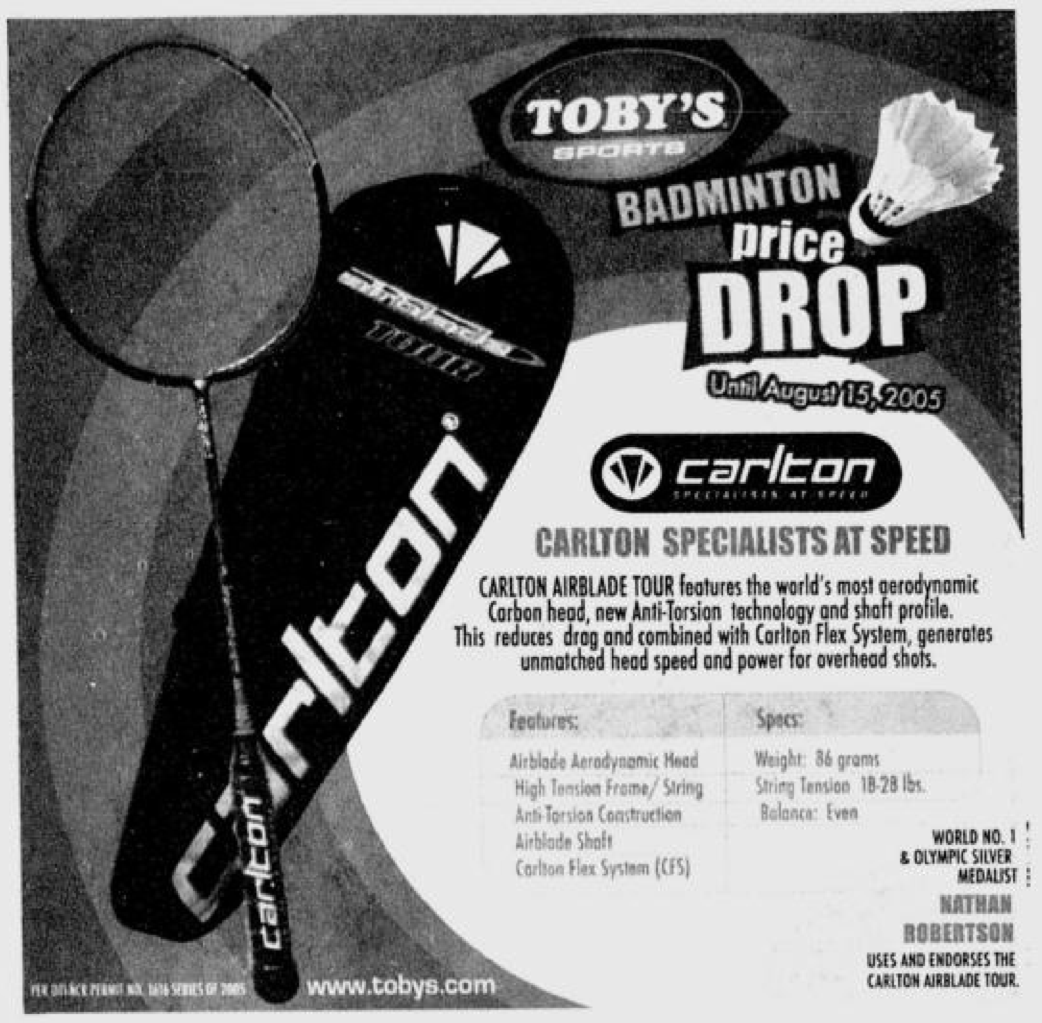
The Philippines has been a force in the Jones Cup, an annual invitational event which started in the '70s and became one of Asia's toughest meets.

Fittingly, the last RP win in the event was scored by another all-PBA squad mentored by Alaska's Tim Cone as part of its buildup for the 1998 Asian Games.

The Philippines was suspended by the Fiba three weeks ago following the expulsion of the Basketball Association of the Philippines by the Philippine Olympic Committee.

A team sent by the BAP to defend the Southeast Asian Basketball Association crown was also barred by the Fiba from playing at the 11th hour in Kuala Lumpur while denying a POC request for a team by Reyes to take its place.

The POC suspended the BAP for failing to comply with agreements forged during a POC-initiated meeting with the major stakeholders of basketball.



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Not to worry, Obet assures SEAG media

NO NEED to worry.

This was the assurance given by Philippine Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee (Philsoc) chair Roberto Pagdanganan to the 40 or so international broadcasters and media men who attended yesterday's SEAG broadcast briefing.

Pagdanganan told the visitors that the current political turmoil rocking the government is not a hindrance to the hosting of the Games.

He also reported that Gen. Rodolfo Tor, the head of the SEAG security panel, is now drawing up the safety measures to be undertaken to protect everyone as well as the venues during the Games.

Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco also assured the media representatives the SEAG will push through as scheduled on Nov. 27-Dec. 5 here.

Musong R. Castillo

Davao hosts Women's Sports League July 28

BASKETBALL and volleyball take centerstage in Davao City with the staging of the 1st San Miguel Corp.-Sen. Alfredo S. Lim Women's Sports League on July 28-30 at the Rizal Memorial College.

LIM: Talent search

The three-day tournament, which aims to discover fresh talents from the countryside, is a joint effort between SMC, the country's giant food and beverage conglomerate, and Senator Lim, a known sports patron.

The brief opening ceremony at the RMC Gym will start with the traditional parade of players at 9 a.m.

Expected to grace the affair are Lim; Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte; Roland Lim, president of the organizing Philippine Schools Athletic Association (PSAA); PSAA chair Niño dela Cruz, and local and sports officials of Davao City.

The tournament will gather the best women's collegiate basketball and volleyball teams from the province.

The participating cage teams and their corresponding product sponsors are Purefoods Chicken Chunks-University of Mindanao; Cali-Brokenshire College, Magnolia Nutri-Oil-Rizal Memorial College, San Mig Coffee-Ateneo de Davao, Moby Hotdog-Davao Doctors College and Purefoods Supremo-San Pedro College.

In volleyball, the teams seeing action are Purefoods Chicken Chunks-University of Mindanao; San Mig Coffee-Ateneo de Davao, Moby Hotdog-Davao Doctors College, Cali-Holy Cross of Davao, Magnolia Nutri-Oil University of Immaculate Conception and Purefoods Supremo-San Pedro College.

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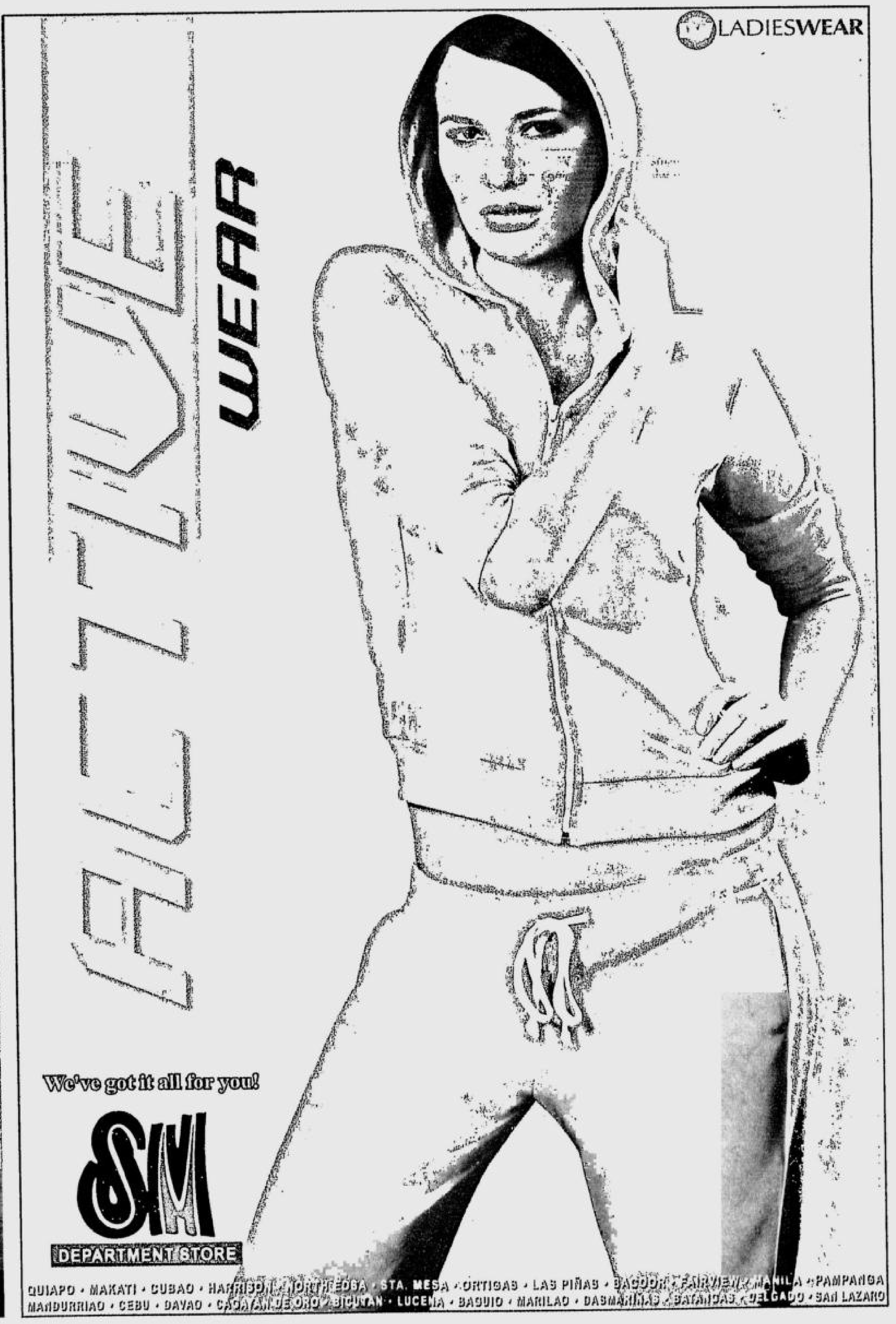

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Top motorsports riders visit Batangas City this weekend

A DOUBLE treat awaits extreme motorsports enthusiasts this weekend when the 2005 Ultimate Red Horse Beer-Smart Buddy Speedfest Championship series resumes in Batangas City for the Sublian Festival.

The event will showcase the country's top motocross riders and 4x4 racers to cap the 36th foundation celebration of Batangas City headed by Mayor Eduardo Dimacuha.

MP Turbo is organizing the event with support from Red Horse Beer, Smart Buddy, GSM Blue, Goodyear Tires, GCG Pipes and local sponsors. Sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association and the local government of Batangas City, the fourth round of the series is expected to attract more than 10,000 fans.

Caltex Revtex's Glenn Aguilar and Kenneth San Andres, the PSC awardees for motocross in 2004, will topbill the motocross races slated tomorrow starting at 10:30 a.m.

Aguilar, the 2003 FIM Asian champion and eight-time Rider of the Year awardee, is favored to dominate the Pro 125 and Pro Open categories.

Aguilar and San Andres will be challenged by Jovie Saulog, who landed second in the Pro 125 class in the national series.

Also expected to join are Shell team stalwarts Jing Leongson and Nani Pazcuguin and celebrity rider Jordan Herrera.

The races in the Junior and Peewee classes will feature Jensen Manuel, Patrick Orbe and 2004 Peewee national titlist Joanna Arreglado.

Peewee riders Jeric Mitra, PAL-Dickies' Raphael Enriquez, Jacob Orbe are the main attractions in the new 7-and-below class.

Exciting races are also expected in the Executive and Veterans classes where Junjun San Andres, Roman Llorente, Recto de Leon, Gimo Gonzales, Frank Cu, Bemble Atienza and Bobby Orbe will see action. For details, call 0919-4921575.

LPC 6-stag derby slated

THE ANNUAL Las Piñas 6-Stag Derby, the traditional kickoff event of the stagfighting season, gets going on Aug. 25 and 27 at the Las Piñas Coliseum with P1 million in cash at stake. Champions will also receive a refrigerator each and a big trophy from Sagupaan Complexor 3000. Screening of stags will start in the first week of August, said former mayor Nene Aguilar, who is hosting the event to raise funds for the city's Clean and Green project. Cockers and breeders may bring their 8-month-old stags, to the LPC office every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Stag weight should be from 1.75 kg to 2.2 kg. For inquiries, call 8731040 and 8743910.

'Pasay at 19' finals today

THE CHAMPIONSHIP round of Pasay City Cockpit's 19th PCC Anniversary 5-Cock Derby fires off today with more than 90 fights on tap. The derby, sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000, drew 162 entries with three of the runner-up finishers in the recent 2005 World Slasher Cup—William Go (WG AS Listana), Mike Romulo of Cavite (Viva Montera 1384) and Gov. Ito Yñares (Binangonan Balbina I and II)—leading the finalists with two wins each. A cash pot of P2 million awaits the winners, said pit manager Eric dela Rosa. For inquiries, call 8431890, 8431746 or 8166750.

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2 (DOLBY) THE ISLAND PG13
3 (DOLBY) HERBIE: FULLY LOADED GP
4 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR GP
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) IF ONLY PG13

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2 (SDDS) THE ISLAND
3 (DTS) WAR OF THE WORLDS
4 GOLD (DTS) THE ISLAND
5 GOLD (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR
6 GOLD (SDDS) HERBIE FULLY LOADED
7 GOLD (DOLBY) THE ISLAND
8 NEW POLICE STORY
9 IF ONLY
10 EVIL DEAD

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3 (DOLBY) THE ISLAND
4 HERBIE FULLY LOADED

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2 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR
3 (DTS) THE ISLAND
4 NEW POLICE STORY

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 PINOY BLONDE
3 (DOLBY) WAR OF THE WORLDS

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 PINOY BLONDE
2 HOTEL RWANDA
3 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR
4 (DTS) WAR OF THE WORLDS

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CINEMA 2000
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Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
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1 THE ISLAND
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
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4 EVIL DEAD

Universal
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1 THE ISLAND

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1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 NEW POLICE STORY
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) THE ISLAND
5 FANTASTIC FOUR

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(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994
1 EVIL DEAD
2 NEW POLICE STORY
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 (DOLBY) THE ISLAND
6 FANTASTIC FOUR

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(LAS PINAS) tel. 8735004
1 (DOLBY) SIX
2 RESERVED

Blue Wave MARQUINTON
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) THE ISLAND
2 (DOLBY) THE ISLAND
3 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR
4 (DOLBY) EVIL DEAD

SUPER CINERAMA
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2 SOON TO OPEN
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4 SOON TO OPEN
5 SOON TO OPEN

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 THE ISLAND
2 NEW POLICE STORY
3 TALAMAK
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 EVIL DEAD
2 THE ISLAND
3 NEW POLICE STORY

Center Mall Cinema
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1 SOON TO OPEN
2 SOON TO OPEN

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1 (DOLBY EX) THE ISLAND
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 (DTS ES) SIN CITY
4 HERBIE FULLY LOADED

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 SIN CITY
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 (DOLBY) HERBIE FULLY LOADED
4 (DTS) THE ISLAND

Cine Nepo
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1 PINOY BLONDE
2 CREEP
3 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR
4 (DTS) WAR OF THE WORLDS

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 THE ISLAND

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) BALAHIBONG PUSA
2 TALAMAK
3 HUBOG
4 (DTS) FANTASTIC FOUR

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) HERBIE FULLY LOADED
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 (DTS) THE ISLAND
4 BALAHIBONG PUSA
5 NEW POLICE STORY

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 TAGOS SA LAMAN
2 THE ISLAND
3 MONSTER IN LAW
4 PINOY BLONDE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 EVIL DEAD
2 KAULAYAW

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12:50 / 3:40 / 6:30 / 9:20
FANTASTIC FOUR
1:00 / 3:15 / 5:30 / 7:45 / 10:00
THE ISLAND
1:00 / 2:00 / 3:50 / 4:40
6:40 / 7:20 / 9:30 / 10:00
HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30
THE EVIL DEAD
1:10 / 3:20 / 5:30 / 7:40 / 9:50
WAR OF THE WORLDS
1:40 / 4:20 / 7:00 / 9:40
GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
ADMISSION : P 299 / Globe Platinum Subscribers P249
THE ISLAND
1:20 / 4:00 / 6:40 / 9:20

ALI MALL CINEMAS
❶ THE ISLAND
12:00 / 2:50 / 5:40 / 8:30
❷ NEW POLICE STORY
12:00 / 2:50 / 5:40 / 8:30
❸ FANTASTIC FOUR
11:50 / 2:05 / 4:20 / 6:35 / 8:50
❹ WAR OF THE WORLDS
12:30 / 3:10 / 5:50 / 8:30
❺ THE EVIL DEAD
12:05 / 2:15 / 4:25 / 6:35 / 8:45
DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS
JOHN MAXWELL ASIAN TOUR 2005
July 22, Friday 6.00 pm
UAAP GAMES
July 23, 28, 30 & 31
10 am / 12 nn / 2 pm / 4 pm
UAAP - NCAA ALL STAR GAMES
August 13, Saturday
CUSA BASKETBALL LEAGUE
August 26, Friday OPENING GAMES

CENTER EVENTS
SALE EVENTS: Freeway, Solo and Barbizon & Sassa at Ali Mall; Cumbia, Rustan's Department Store, Mossimo, Marithe & Francois Girbaud, Bass, LA Gear, Lacoste Footwear, Orange Juice, Folded & Hung, Bayo and Arrow at Gateway Mall
PERFORMANCES: UPLJE with Skarlet, Chedi & Cooky Chua with Affinity on July 22, 23 & 24 at the Gateway Roxas Tunnel

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THIS SEMESTER, SOME ANGRY SOULS ARE ALSO ENROLLED...PAPASOK KA BA SA HAUNTED SCHOOL?

3 share Evian lead; Rosales, Wie struggle

EVIAN, France—Sweden's Annika Sorenstam, the world No. 1, and teenage sensation Michelle Wie, failed to live up to their star billing in the first round of the Evian Masters on Wednesday.

While New Zealand's Lynnette Brooky, Colombia's Marisa Baena and Swede Carin Koch shared the lead on six under par 66, Sorenstam had a couple of uncharacteristic blemishes in a level par 72, while Wie blamed a lack of luck on her 75.

Filipina Jennifer Rosales is in danger of missing the cut after a 77.

Sorenstam, aiming to become the first three-time winner, drove out of bounds and ran up a seven at the long 15th.

She then hit her second shot into water at the par five 18th and closed with a six to finish six shots off the lead on a course that had been ravaged by a hailstorm on Monday.

"It wasn't a good day," admitted the champion from 2000 and 2002 and the runner-up to Australia's Wendy Doolan a year ago.

Wie, who tied for 33rd on her debut last year, also struggled on the greens, missing from eight feet for an eagle at the par five 18th. *AFP*

Hewitt, soap star marry in Sydney

SYDNEY, Australia—Australian tennis ace Lleyton Hewitt and his pregnant soap star fiancee Bec Cartwright completed their love match Thursday—tying the knot in a lavish ceremony at the landmark Sydney Opera House.

Former Wimbledon and US Open champion Hewitt, the world's No. 2-ranked tennis player, proposed to Cartwright—a longtime cast member of Australian soap opera "Home and Away" —just hours after losing the Australian Open final to Russian Marat Safin at Melbourne Park in January.

The couple had been dating for six weeks before Hewitt proposed. Hewitt, 24, had been engaged to Belgian Kim Clijsters until last October.

Hewitt and Cartwright, 21, have bought a multimillion dollar home on one of Sydney's northern beaches and are expecting their first child later this year.

John Newcombe, Tony Roche, Todd Woodbridge and Wayne Arthurs, Hewitt's former Davis Cup mentors or teammates, were among the estimated 180 guests. *AP*

SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMING: Japan's team perform Wednesday in the final round of combination synchronized swimming during the World Aquatics Championships in Montreal. Japan won the silver medal in the event. AP

Armstrong gains on Merckx mark

REVEL, France—A leisurely ride through rolling French hills, a bit of excitement at the finish to get the heart racing, a win for a teammate, and another rung climbed in cycling's history books.

In all, a pretty good day at the Tour de France for Lance Armstrong.

Armstrong donned his 79th yellow jersey —leaving only Belgian great Eddy Merckx ahead of him with more—after holding his race lead through the Tour's longest stage, won Wednesday by his Italian support rider Paolo Savoldelli.

Armstrong tied Bernard Hinault, the last Frenchman to win the Tour in 1985, for the second most yellow jerseys—and should overtake him as he closes in on a seventh straight race victory on Sunday.

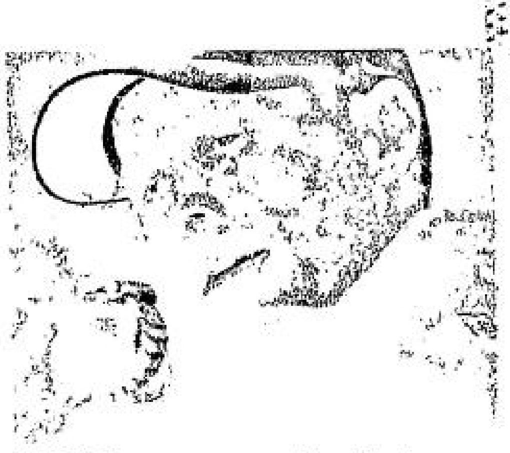
Armstrong came into this Tour with 66 jerseys and, if he holds the lead to Paris, will retire with 83. Merckx won 111 in the 1960s and '70s, but Armstrong has more Tour titles —a record six compared to five for Merckx, Hinault, Miguel Indurain and Jacques Anquetil.

Armstrong says he doesn't track his jersey wins.

"I have to be honest, I don't keep count of those things," Armstrong said this week. "I don't know if I deserve to pass a guy like Hinault."

He keeps some jerseys for himself, but says he gives others to his teammates, friends and supporters, or auctions them for charity.

Savoldelli's victory in the 17th stage was the third for Armstrong's Discovery Channel team at this Tour.



LANCE Armstrong wears the yellow jersey on the podium after the 17th stage. REUTERS

George Hincapie won in the Pyrenees and the squad also won the team time trial. Armstrong, who always won at least one individual stage in his previous six winning Tours, has yet to do so this year— but is eyeing victory in the final time trial on Saturday.

Savoldelli was part of a breakaway group that at one point built up a lead of more than 24 minutes over the main pack that included Armstrong. *AP*

2 lady cyclists critical

SYDNEY—Two of Australia's top women cyclists were still on life support after being hit by an out-of-control car that also killed teammate Amy Gillett in Germany this week, Cycling Australia said Thursday. Alexis Rhodes, 20, and Louise Yaxley, 23, were both unconscious with serious and extensive injuries after the accident on Tuesday. *AFP*

Pistons hire Saunders; Knicks lure Brown

NEW YORK—Flip Saunders reached an agreement on Wednesday to become the new coach of the Detroit Pistons, who wasted no time replacing Larry Brown.

The hiring of Saunders, the former coach of the Minnesota Timberwolves, was confirmed by an Eastern Conference official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the team planned to announce the deal at a news conference on Thursday.

Following talks between Pistons team president Joe Dumars and Saunders' agent, the deal was finalized on Wednesday.

The Detroit News reported Saunders will receive a four-year contract worth between $4 million and $5 million (euro 3.3 million and euro 4.1 million) per season.

The appointment comes just one day after the Pistons finalized their severance agreement with Brown.

Team owner Bill Davidson provided some insight into the departure of the 64-year-old coach in an interview with WDIV-TV.

Brown, who had three years remaining on a five-year, $25-million (euro 20.7-million) contract, reportedly received $5 million (euro 4.1 million) in his severance package. He has already been contacted by New York Knicks president Isiah Thomas, who plans to meet with Brown to gauge his interest in replacing interim coach Herb Williams.

Davidson was a key player in the departure of Brown, who spoke during the spring with the Cleveland Cavaliers about possibly becoming team president and also told the New York Post in the middle of last season that coaching the Knicks would be a "dream job." Brown guided the Pistons to the NBA title in 2004 and came one win away from repeating this year. *AP*

TALKING HEADS

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G1 GLORIETTA 1	1	EVIL DEAD
	2	THE ISLAND
	3	FANTASTIC 4
	4	WAR OF THE WORLDS
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1	IF ONLY
	2	NEW POLICE STORY
	3 THX	THE ISLAND GUARANTEED SEATS
	4	THE ASSASSINATION OF RICHARD NIXON
	5	HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
	6	THE ISLAND
	7	FANTASTIC 4
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1	IF ONLY
	2	THE ISLAND
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX	IF ONLY GUARANTEED SEATS
	2 THX	THE ISLAND GUARANTEED SEATS
	3	HERBIE: FULLY LOADED GUARANTEED SEATS
	4	THE ISLAND GUARANTEED SEATS
	5	FANTASTIC 4 GUARANTEED SEATS
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX	THE ISLAND
	2	FANTASTIC 4
	3	IF ONLY
	4	THE ISLAND
	5	HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
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	2	HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY
	3	ALONE IN THE DARK
	4	FANTASTIC 4

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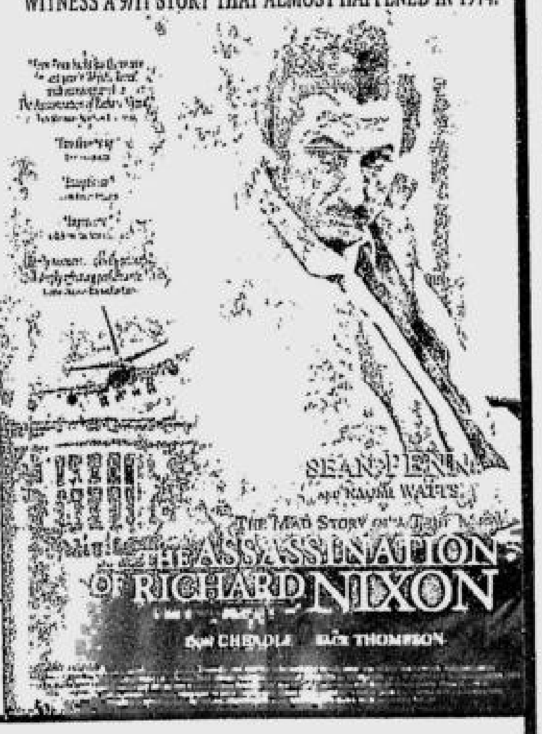
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GALLERIA 632-9115/16

Movie	Times
1 THE ISLAND • THX	1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
2 THE ISLAND	12:30 3:30 6:30 9:30
3 EVIL DEAD	12:50 3:10 5:30 7:50 10:00
4 FANTASTIC FOUR	12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
5 NEW POLICE STORY	12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
6 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED	12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
7 MONSTER-IN-LAW	12:25 2:50 5:15 7:40 10:00
8 BHAGAT SINGH	1:00MF / 7:30 LMF
YAADEIN	4:00 MF
9 IF ONLY	12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00
10 WAR OF THE WORLDS	12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

Movie	Times
1 THE ISLAND	12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
2 EVIL DEAD	12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
3 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED	12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
4 SHANGHAI LILY	12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
5 IF ONLY	12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
6 FANTASTIC FOUR	12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
7 NEW POLICE STORY	12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

Movie	Times
1 IF ONLY	12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00
2 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED	1:40 4:00 6:20 9:00
3 EVIL DEAD	2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10
4 WAR OF THE WORLDS	12:00 2:15 4:30 6:45 9:00
5 FANTASTIC FOUR	12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
6 THE ISLAND	4:00 7:00
7 THE ISLAND	1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
8 NEW POLICE STORY	1:10 3:40 6:20 9:00

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
2 THE ISLAND
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 THE PACIFIER

PIONEER 687-5378

1 THE ISLAND
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
4 IF ONLY

India's Most Fearless Patriot, a Hero who became a Legend
The Legend of
BHAGAT SINGH
Ajay Devgan, Sushant Singh, Santosh, Amrita Rao

The Legend of Bhagat Singh is a drama about the legendary Indian freedom fighter. Singh (Ajay Devgan sees first-hand British atrocities performed on his people. He throws off convention like an arranged marriage and becomes an important figure in the fight for Indian independence. He is eventually executed for his revolutionary actions. This is one of five films released within eighteen months of each other that look at the life of Bhagat Singh.

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MTRCB Rating: PG-13

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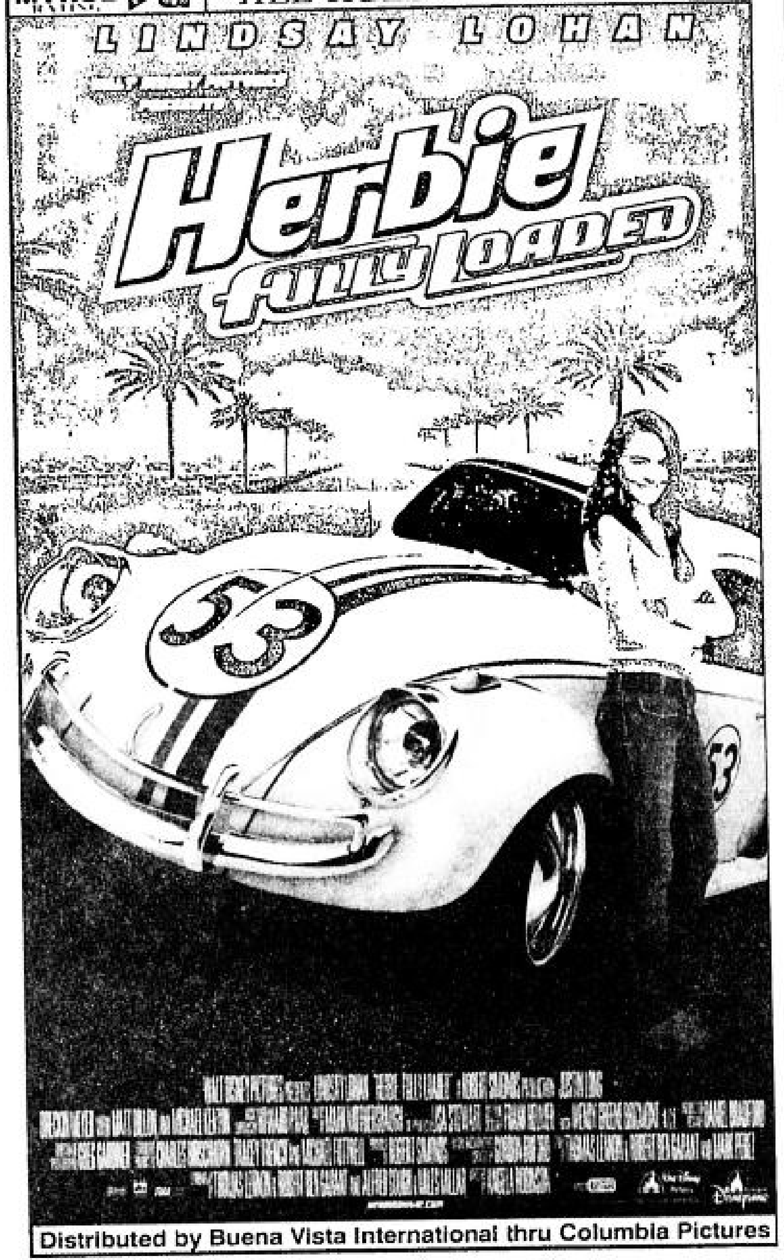
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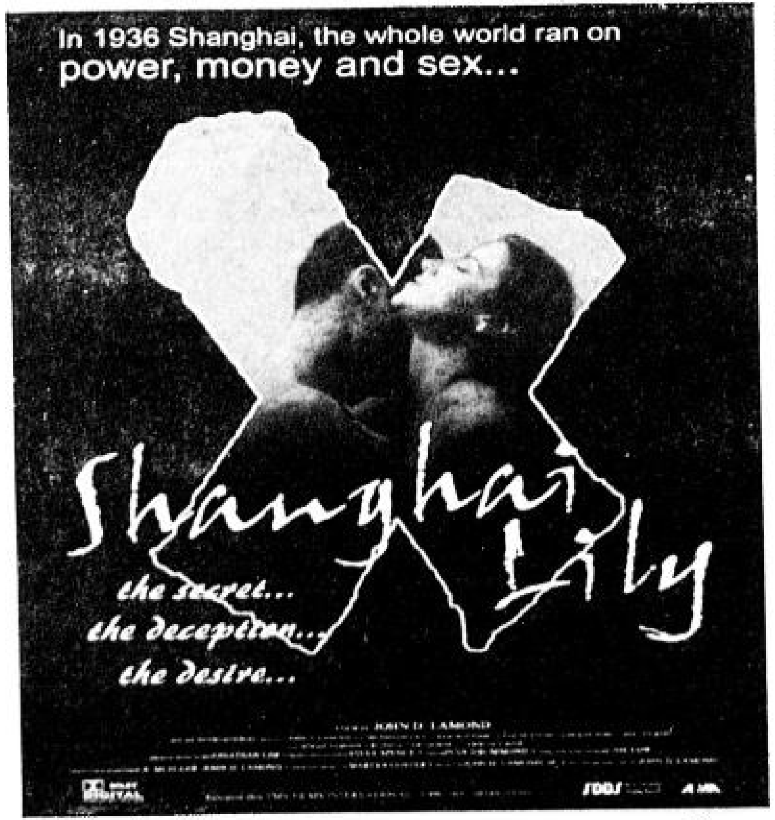
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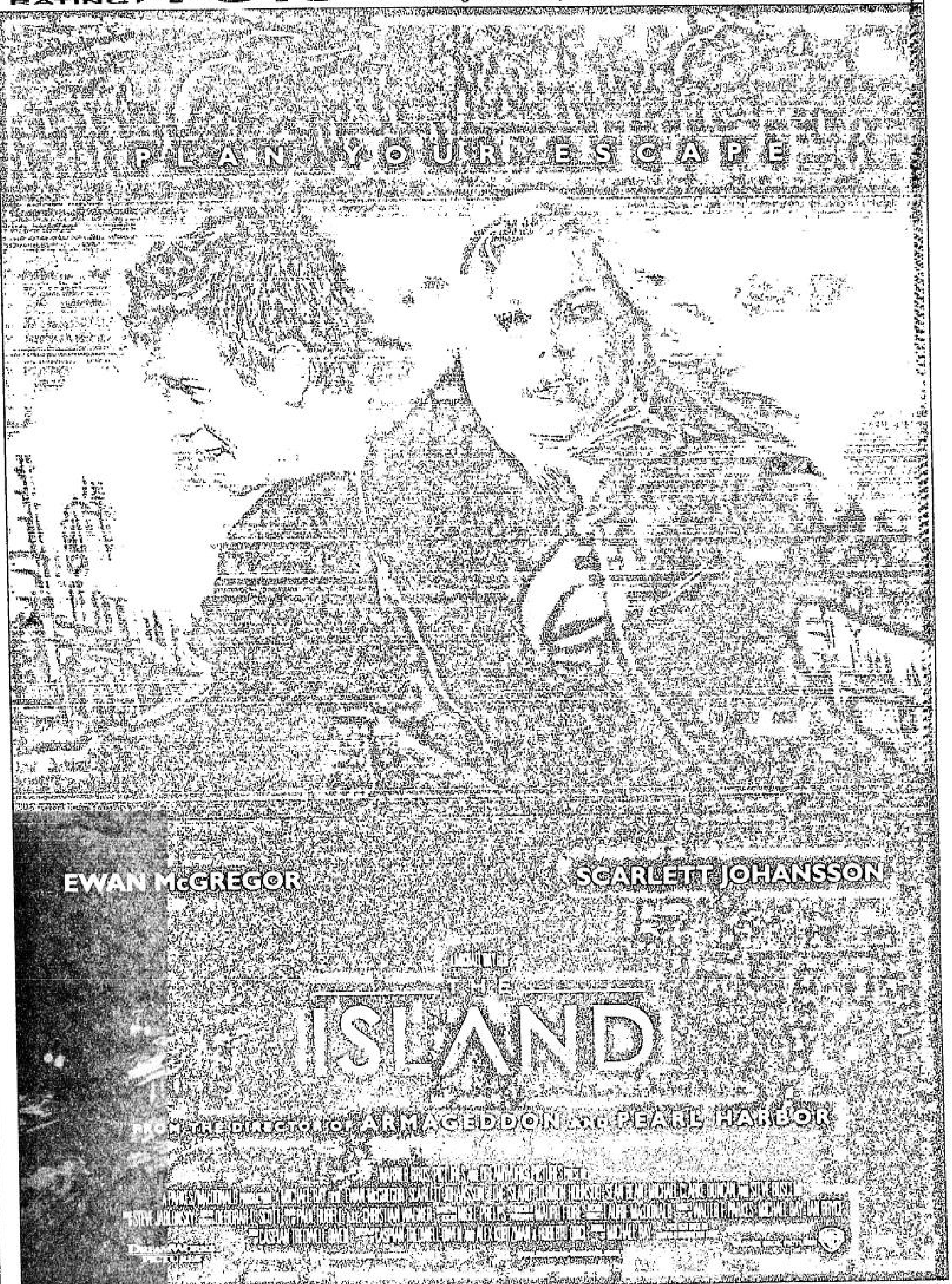
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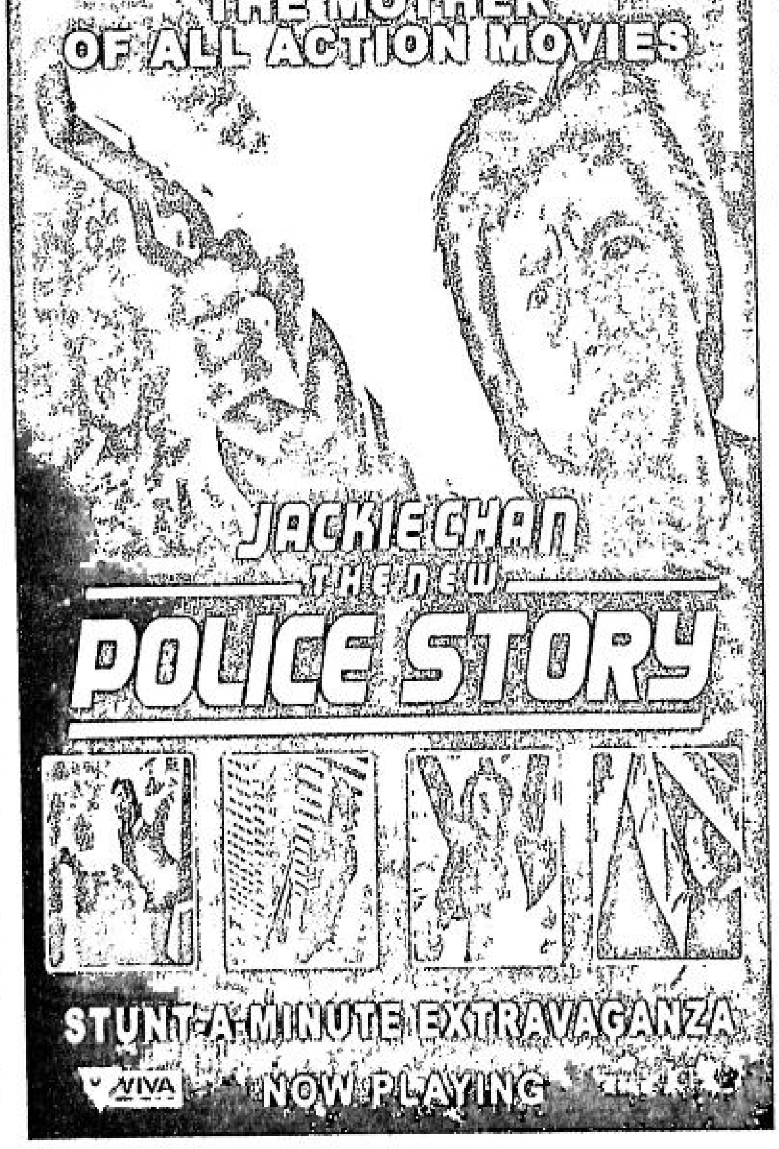
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Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**

FILIPINO CLOUTERS
The Cebuana-Lhuillier backed Philippine-ILLAM Seniors Division Team competed in the recent Asia-Pacific Little League Baseball Regionals in Tinian, Saipan. The Philippines beat Hong Kong and Northern Marianas to make it to the final round against Guam. The Filipinos bowed to the Guamanians, however, and lost their bid to represent Asia in the coming Seniors League World Series.

INTERSCHOLASTIC TOURNEY

SHS golfers beyond recall

CEBU—Sacred Heart School-Jesuit virtually clinched the high school title even as Centre for International Education clung to a slim grade school lead after the penultimate round of the Samsung Interscholastic golf championships yesterday at the Cebu Country Club here.

Charles Uy, Franz Dy and Franz Olea combined for 119 as Sacred Heart-Jesuit streaked to an unreachable 68-point spread in the high school division with a 243 aggregate for two days.

Uy scored 40, Uy had 41 and Olea tallied 38 for Sacred Heart. Shotaro Suda did not count for the second straight day with a 22.

Centre for International Education bucked the disqualification of Vijay Vasandi III to stay on top by nine points over Springdale in grade school play.

Raphael Wong carried the cudgels for CIE with 41 points that went with the 29 of Jan Jan Ybanez and 17 of Valentin Mendoza.

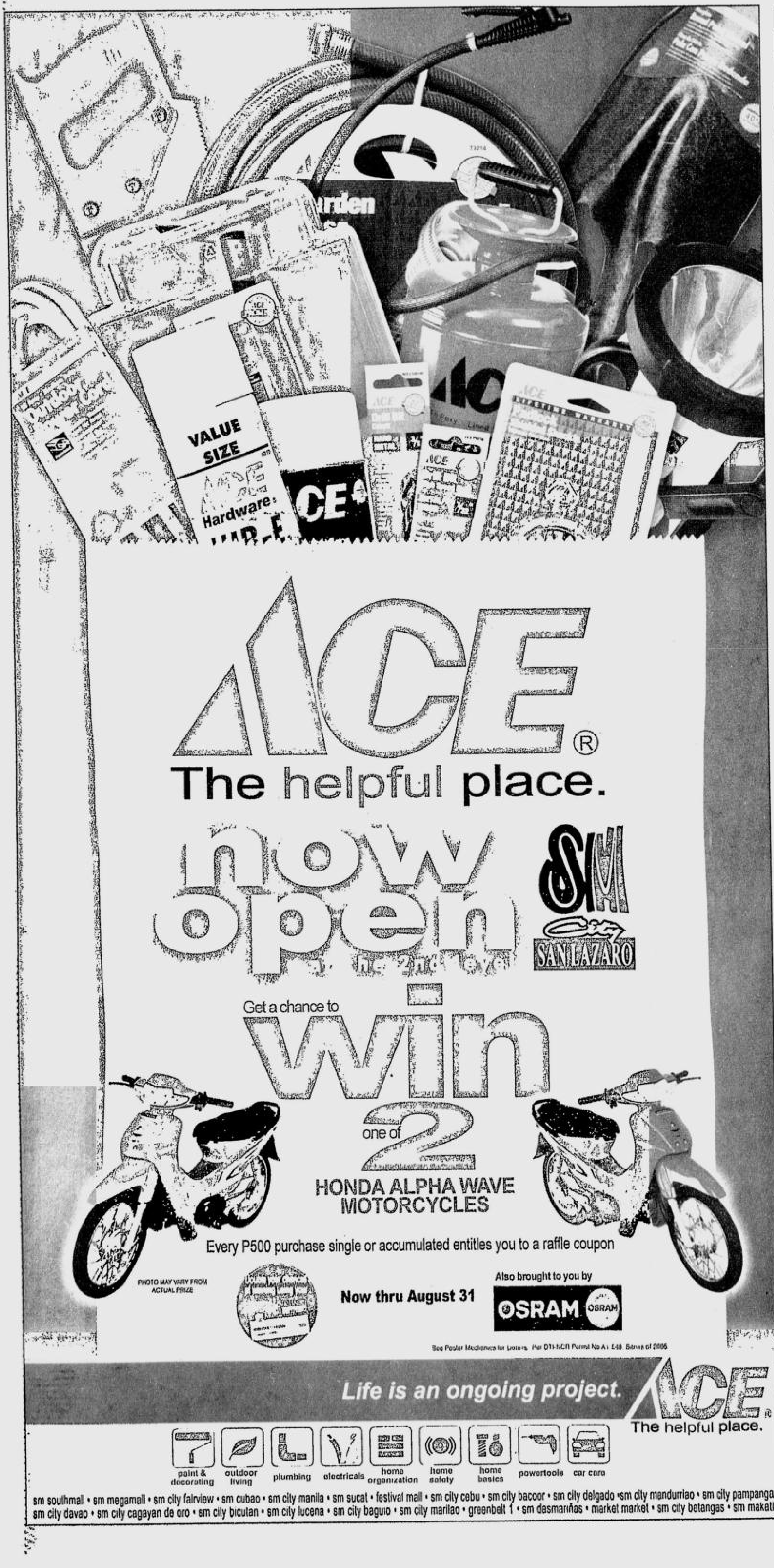
CIE had a 205 total for two days, keeping at bay Springdale which was at 196 through the 35s of Michael Manglapus and Lorenzo Almario and the 23 of Antonio Chiongbian.

The CIE shotmakers trailed Springdale by 12 points at the start of the day.

Mark Anthony Dy, Edsel Tan, Raphael Wong and Jyra Mae Wong kept the lead in the individual category.

Dy, the University of San Carlos top bet, amassed 51 for a 97 total and a two-point spread over teammate Efren Gica; Tan of Bethany Christian School (48-98) increased his lead to six over Chepe Dulay of the La Salle Integrated School-Bacolod (45-92) in high school boys' play; and Wong of CIE assumed the lead in grade school boys' with a 41-80, six ahead of Almario (35-74).

Wong, also of CIE, carded 42 for a 93 total and a five-point lead over Hannah Jayne Wong.



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Will Alvarez, Villanueva be together again?

CLEAN LIVING
Manolo R. Iñigo

IN THE wake of reports that Shell will disband soon and release its players to the team's preferred clubs, Turbo Charger Rich Alvarez, the 2005 PBA Rookie of the Year, said he wants to join Red Bull and be reunited with his former Ateneo teammate and now Barako star Enrico Villanueva.

"*Walang problema kung mapupunta si Alvarez sa Red Bull* (There's no problem if Alvarez joins Red Bull)," said coach Yeng Guiao.

"He would be a welcome addition," added Guiao, who steered the Photokina franchise to fourth place in the just-ended Fiesta Conference, losing to Shell in their battle for third.

"We will be happy to acquire Alvarez," echoed Red Bull team manager Tony Chua, "but there are procedures to follow."

In a recent interview with Nelson Beltran of the Philippine Star, Alvarez, a 6-foot-4 defensive gem, said he is "keeping (his) fingers crossed that Shell will keep the franchise," adding he doesn't "want to start all over again with another team."

But if Shell is disbanded and the players are released to the team's preferred clubs, Alvarez said he would opt to play with Red Bull and team up with Villanueva, a close friend and former teammate at the Ateneo. Alvarez and Villanueva led the Ateneo Eagles to victory over their arch rivals, the La Salle Archers, in the 2002 UAAP championship.

Alvarez is not a flashy player, but he plays excellent defense. In fact, Alvarez made the league's All-Defensive Team alongside Villanueva, who was also voted the Most Improved Player.

On the future of Shell in the PBA, board governor and team manager Bobby Kanapi said their mother company based in London is still evaluating the team's status. He added that a decision on whether to disband or continue its participation in the league would be announced before the month is over. PBA member clubs have adopted a wait-and-see attitude, agreeing not to touch any of the Shell players pending a final decision from the oil company.

***

DANCESPORT AT PHILSPORTS. Tomorrow, the Dance Sport Council of the Philippines will host its midyear ranking and competitions at the Philsports Arena featuring some 200 dance athletes from all over the country.

"These athletes are our strongest bets to win medals in the coming Southeast Asian Games," said DSCP president Becky Garcia. "They have been performing extraordinarily well in recent years and some of them, particularly our dance athletes in the Latin category, are now ranked among the best in Asia."

To ensure fairness and honesty in deciding the winners, five international licensed adjudicators are serving as judges in the competitions sponsored by San Miguel Corp., Petron, BPI-Mastercard, BMW Philippines, Philippine Sports Commission, Philippine Olympic Committee, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Pagcor, Gulf Air, Water Zone, Savannah Moon, Joey 92.3 Rhythm, Rene Barbier Wines and Edsa Shangri-La Hotel.

Assisting Ms Garcia in hosting the event are the members of the DSCP board headed by lawyer Noel Laman, chair; businessman Alejandro "Jun" Herrera, vice president; lawyer Josefina de Vera-Saliva, secretary general; international dance adjudicator Gloria Aleala, treasurer; and directors lawyer Andresito Fornier, Marvie Yulo, Ambassador Antonio Lagdameo, Edward Hayco, Emma Nieto, Ruby Co, Chona Mercado, Nanette Mendoza, Crisaldo Rendon and Jerswin Poloyapoy.

"We are fortunate to have dedicated people and supportive sponsors like them," Garcia proudly said.

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Race 4—1. Dixie the Younger 2. Don Exequiel
Race 5—1. Samahan 2. Like Kevin 3. Jellbeanjoy 4. Solo Singer 5. Witch Craft
Race 6—1. Naughty 2. Best in Class 3. C'est Moi 4. Rose and Toy
Race 7—1. Clear Stone 2. Red Storm 3. China Girl 4. Armour of Lights 5. Still Special
Race 8—1. Angie Red/Run Like D Wind 2. Cat Prince 3. Formidable Ella 4. Batang Westside
Race 9—1. Free Rein 2. Sir Benjo 3. Dynamic Jon Jon 4. Mika's Pride 5. Magnanimous 6. En Carta

Mid-Amateur Open registration begins

REGISTRATION for the 4th Active Group Mid-Amateur Open is now open up to Aug. 14.

The tournament proper tees off on Aug. 19 and 20 at the Mount Malarayat Golf & Country Club in Lipa City, Batangas, host of the recent 89th Philippine Open.

Organized by Active Group Chair Antonio A. Turalba Sr. and his son, Mount Malarayat Golf & Country Club general manager Antonio V. Turalba Jr., the competition will be a 36-hole stroke play for all divisions.

This year's entry eligibility will be determined through the NGAP of IPI handicap index for this month.

Registration forms for the event may be requested through the Mount Malarayat Golf & Country Club Pro Shop in Lipa City. For more info, call 043-756-7007, 814-0743 and 893-7024 loc. 220.

ENTERTAINMENT

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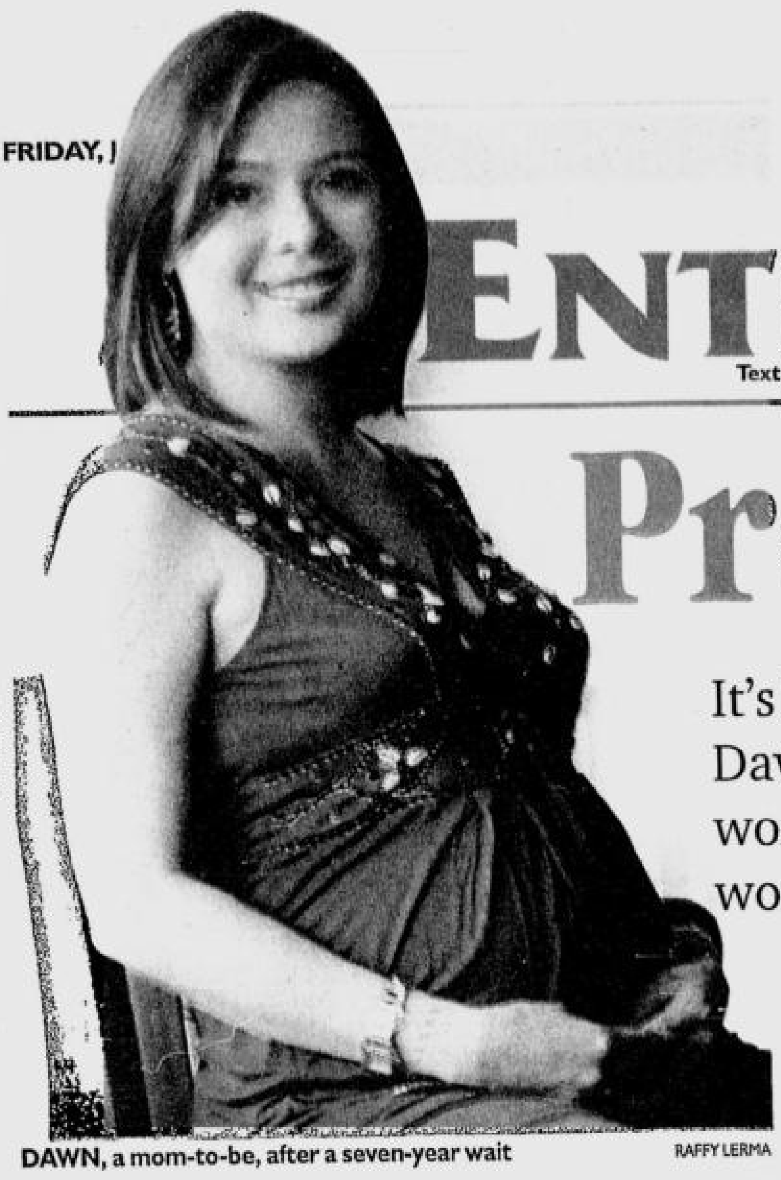

DAWN, a mom-to-be, after a seven-year wait

RAFFY LERMA

Pregnancy becomes her

It's hard to tell, just by looking at Dawn Zulueta-Lagdameo, that she is working twice as hard as most other women to have a baby

By Marinel R. Cruz

ACTRESS Dawn Zulueta expects to give birth to a baby boy in November, according to a recent ultrasound result. The baby will be born in Manila but will be raised in Davao, where Dawn lives with her hus-

PREGNANCY/ A2-2

Oops, so sorry

INQUIRER Entertainment regrets an editing error in the story by Nini Valera on the Metro Manila Fil Festival published July 18, 2005.

The first two paragraphs of the original copy read:

Four out of seven movies chosen from screenplays as final entries to this year's Metro Manila Film Festival are from Lily Monteverde after the MMFF revised its rule that limited a producer to just two entries.

Another revision in the rules also expanded the selection process of the entries to include finished products.

The edited version reads:

Four out of seven movies chosen from screenplays as final entries to this year's Metro Manila Film Festival are apparently linked to Lily Monteverde.

As such, the four films would be a violation of the MMFF's revised rule limiting a producer to just two entries.

In fact, the revised rule lifted limitations in the number of entries that could qualify for the film fest from a single producer. Thus, Lily Monteverde did not violate any rules of the festival.

Another revision in the rules also expanded the selection process of the entries to include finished products."

As such, the whole festival could consist of 10 films from just a single producer. In effect, no rule was violated by Monteverde because the past rule that limited the number of entries to just two was revised.

Inquirer Entertainment apologizes to Ms Monteverde and MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando.

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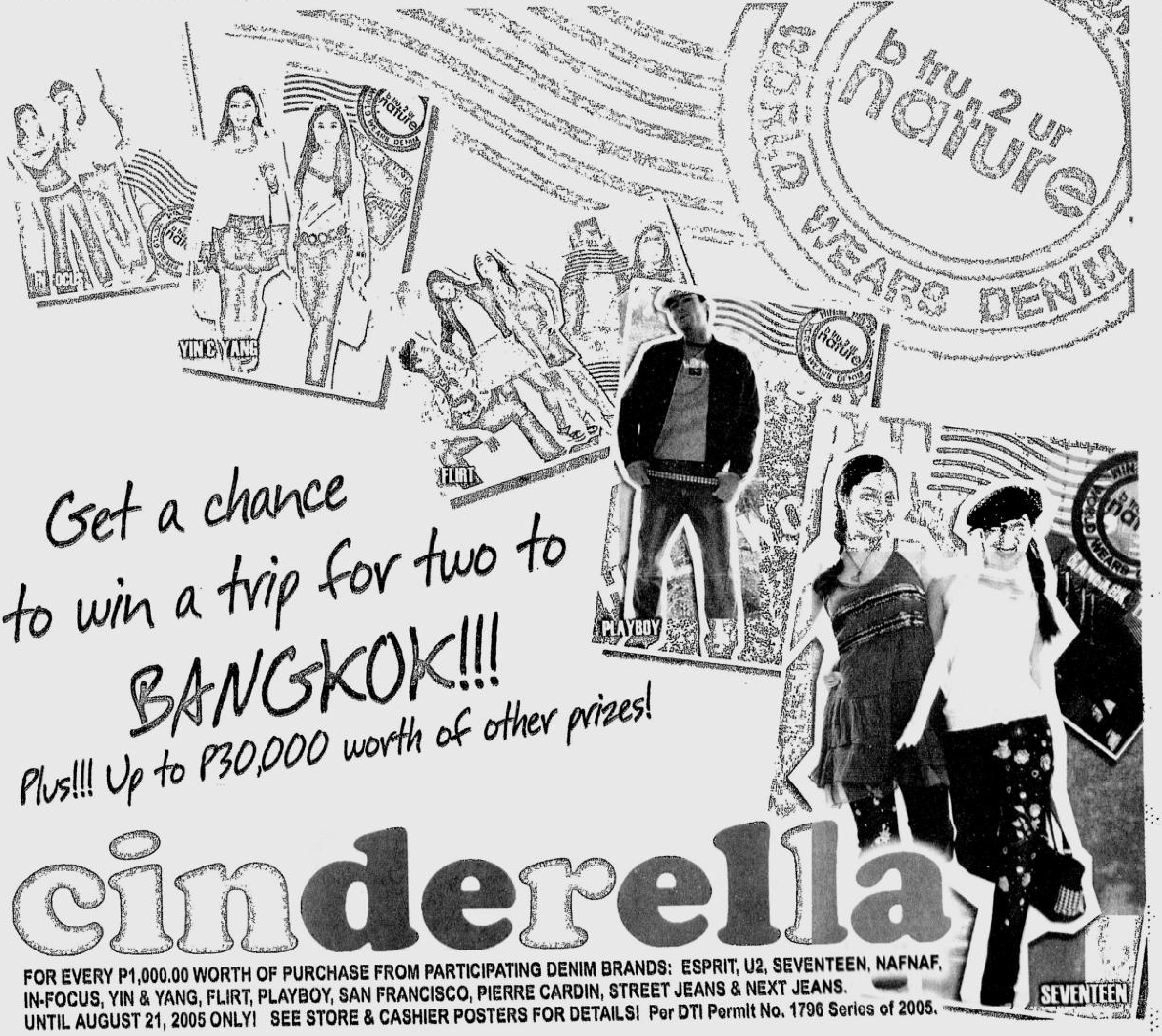

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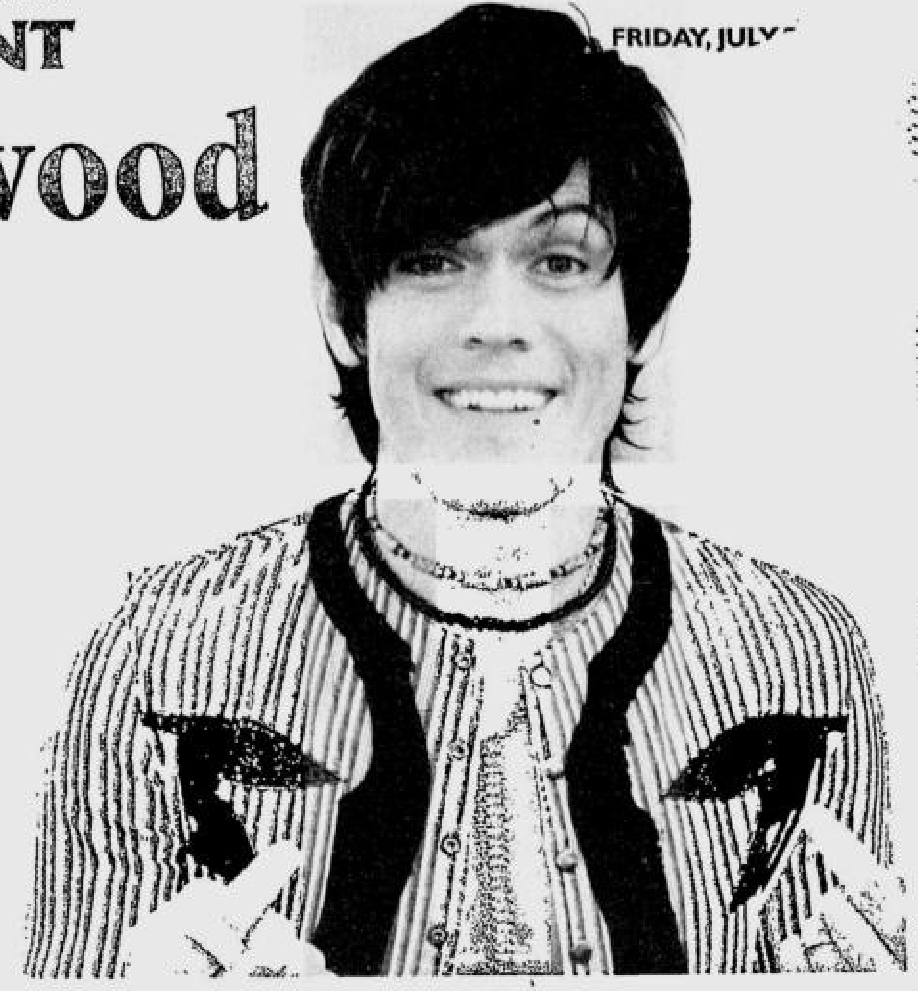
Pinoy-Aussie rocks H'wood

INQUIRER Entertainment meets 'Rock Star' contender Mig Ayesa and watches him perform live in the studio

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD
Ruben V. Nepales



VOTE for me, Manila! JANET SUSAN R. NEPALES

LOS ANGELES—Filipino-Australian Mig Ayesa is probably the friendliest rocker there is.

Mig—at press time, still one of the finalists of the new reality series "Rock Star: INXS" (on Starworld)—met us with the most dazzling smile last Sunday in his dressing room before the taping of this week's performance episode (aired last Tuesday on CBS in the United States). This member of the Roces and Legarda clan in the Philippines wore his shirt open all the way down, over the most "dangerously" low low-rise jeans.

When I asked if he spoke Tagalog, Mig smiled and said, *"Hindi, pare. Ang Tagalog ko putik."* We—myself, my wife Janet who was snapping away, and INQUIRER Entertainment editor Emmie Velarde, who was in town—burst into laughter at the guy's valiant but literal effort to say he was not very proficient in the language.

The Manila-born dynamo surprised us by saying that he wrote a track in one of Martin Nievera's early albums. I was to learn later that he wrote three other songs on Ladine Roxas' album, "How Can I Make You Love Me."

Mig, whose full name is Miguel Alfonso Ramon Ayesa, moved with his mother and brother to Australia when he was 2.

When we first wrote about Mig (June 16), we quoted an e-mail from his prominent Australia-based relative, artist-writer Alfredo "Ding Roces" (shared to us by our friend Zen Lopez): "Miguel Ayesa…is the son of my niece, Carmen (Uko) Legarda Ayesa. His grandfather (Dr. Alejandro Legarda) is a first cousin and his great grandmother (Filomena Roces) was my father's sister. We would chance upon him with his mother when he lived in Sydney before he moved to London last year to pursue his stage career there."

Before moving to London, Mig appeared in Australian stage musicals and film, on TV shows and commercials, and played in bands. His breakthrough role as Ritchie Valens in an Aussie touring production of the musical, "Buddy! The Buddy Holly Story," led to reprising the role in London's West End. He also played Angel in the musical "Rent."

Before he was chosen as a finalist in the latest reality show of producer Mark Burnett ("Survivor"), Mig was starring as Galileo in London's musical about the band Queen, "We Will Rock You." He had to sacrifice this big role for a chance to be the new lead singer of INXS (band frontman Michael Hutchence's death in 1997 was ruled a suicide—he was found hanging from a leather belt in Sydney), a recording contract and a world concert tour with the band. Mig admitted to us in his dressing room: "Letting go of 'We Will Rock You' was something very hard for me to do."

In a blog entry posted online, he wrote, "I am only wishing I can share as much of these experiences with my wife (Simone de la Rue), which I know I cannot. This will be my greatest trial, being away from her."

After our quick chat, Mig pressed my arm and said, *"O sige, pare."* Then we proceeded to the studio to watch him electrify the live audience. The show's beautiful Mayan-inspired set looks big and spacious on TV but it's actually an intimate and cozy space. Host Dave Navarro—notable guitarist, formerly with Jane's Addiction and the Red Hot Chili Peppers—and the INXS members sat in Gothic chairs like rock royalty, evaluating each performance. "Babe-licious" co-host, Brooke Burke, a surprisingly engaging TV emcee, moved around the set for her intro spots.

A TV critic earlier groused that the finalists should be performing with INXS, not with "a band of anonymous musicians." But this house band rocked … and the finalists, as a matter of course, gave solid performances. Mig was so good the day we watched that he made the INXS members stand up and cheer during his performance. The band declared him "Incredible!"

The other finalists were no slouches, either. So "Rock Star" is one suspenseful contest. This CBS show is aired three nights a week worldwide, including the Philippines. Night one shows the contestants' life in their Hollywood Hills mansion digs, night two is performance show and night three is the thrilling elimination show.

Mig is asking for the support, especially from Filipinos all over the world. Voting can be done online via www.rockstar.msn.com or by text (only for Verizon Wireless subscribers though).

Following is our chat with Mig.

How do you feel at this stage in the competition?

I feel very privileged to be here so far, now that we're down to 13 [finalists]. It's been a hell of a trip. I'm pretty happy [but] at the moment, I'm kind of nervous, too.

How often are you in Manila?

I was last there in 2000. I used to go every Christmas and New Year. My *Lolo* and *Lola* Gigi used to fly me to the Philippines to make sure that I stayed close to my cousins who all still lived there in Alabang Village.

You said your Tagalog was …?

Putik, putik naman kasi, e (Laughs).

Have you heard from relatives since the show began?

Yes!

Is there anybody here in LA to support you?

No. I have relatives in New York. They are hoping and trying to get to LA to see one of the shows. But I do get e-mails from a lot of my cousins from the Philippines who are proud to see me on television. They said they'd be voting.

Do you know a rock song in Tagalog?

Um no, but I do know some Gary V songs.

Oh, that's not rock. (Laughter)

Yeah, I know … but do you know the rock band Wolfgang?

Yes.

The guitarist is a Legarda (Manuel, his cousin). He gave me his CD so I could listen to the songs. But I [still] don't know how to sing them.

How's that band doing?

They've disbanded.

You know, I wrote a song, "Looks Like Love," for Martin Nievera and he recorded it in an early album, "Time."

Martin and Gary are here in LA this weekend.

No way!

We saw them last night. They had a show.

Really? Are you going to speak to Martin soon?

Oh no, Martin is leaving tonight.

Because he was texting me in London, when he was there while I was doing the play. But I was so busy, we never got the chance to meet. Can you please tell him that I said hi? I'm not allowed to speak to anyone [outside of the show].

Gary is still here, though.

Gary is amazing.

You know, Jane here once interviewed Michael Hutchence.

Really! How long ago?

In the Philippines, in the '80s.

Michael's father and his brother lived in the Philippines for a while. So there is a Philippine connection to INXS as well.

I see your joy when you are performing—where does it come from?

I think from the fact that I'm actually doing this, instead of really working for a living. It's much more fun than actually going to, you know, [a workplace]. My mother is a doctor, all my uncles and aunts were doctors.

What do you think of your chances? Manila is rooting for you.

Really? Can I go to Manila? Please keep voting.

A lot of folks are voting for you.

Brilliant. Well, my chances are at least one in 13, huh? I joined the contest thinking I was so well suited to this. But when I witnessed everybody sing, I thought, gee, it could go to anyone!

But we want you to win.

Yeah. But I have no idea … I have a band in London and we were recording some stuff for our album there.

There's a "We Will Rock You" in Las Vegas as well.

I know, but it was based in London first. They just put up my new posters in London. So I'm all over London for "We Will Rock You," … and then I leave the show…

Was it an easy decision to make?

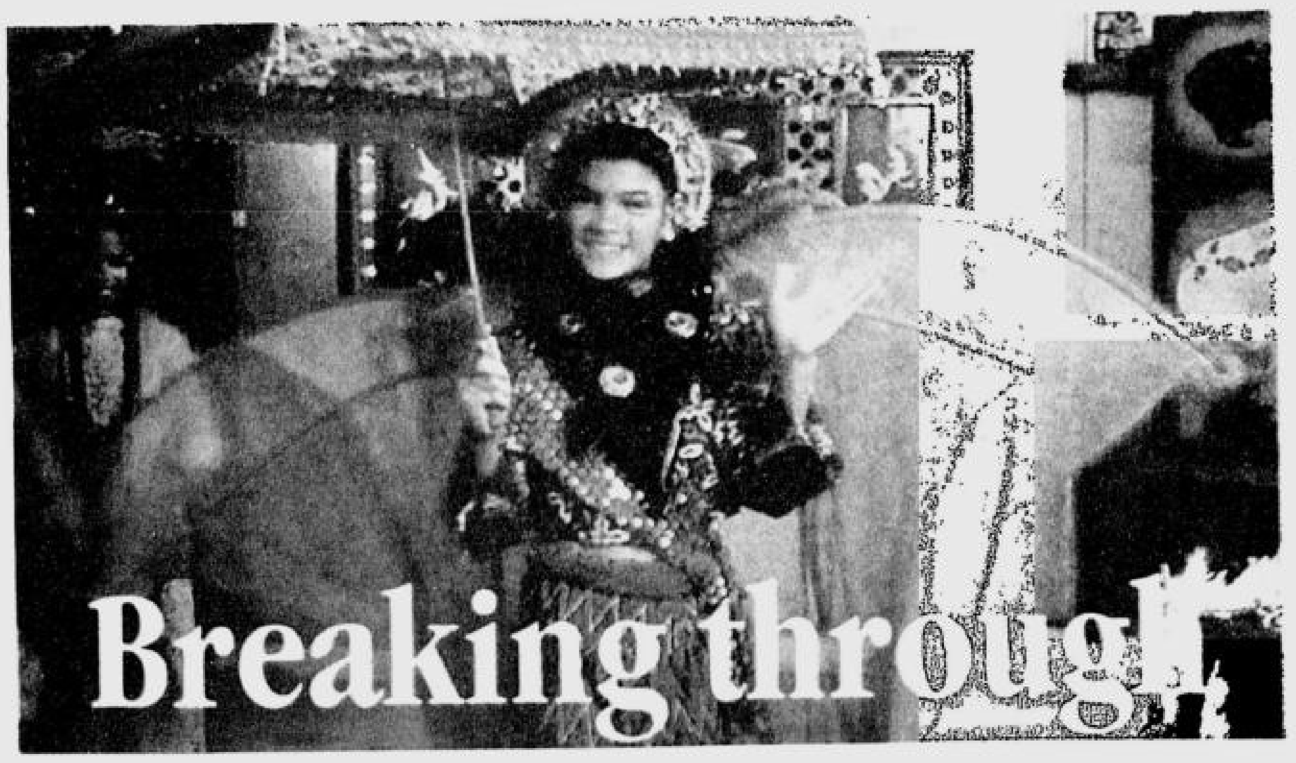
[No] but this is an opportunity that comes only once in a lifetime. And it could be my last chance of becoming a recording artist or a rock star.

What are you singing tonight?

Aerosmith's "Walk this Way."

Good luck!

(E-mail the columnist at rvnepales@yahoo.com.)



Breaking through

Newcomer Nathan Lopez emerges as crowd favorite in the Cinemalaya indie festival

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

RAFFY LERMA

AS Maxi (top) and receiving his citation at the Cinemalaya awards show.

IN THE most recent installment of the ABS-CBN talent search "Star Circle Quest," 13-year-old aspirant Nathan Lopez landed in the top 25, but failed to join the likes of Erich Gonzalez in the winners' circle.

But a bigger prize awaited him—the lead role in "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros," the special jury prize winner in the recently concluded Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival and Competition held at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Nathan joins young actors Angelo Ilagan ("Sarong Banggi") and Elijah Castillo ("Pepot Artista") as among the Cinemalaya's breakthrough stars.

The first time Nathan auditioned for the part—a role of a lifetime, really—he was "nervous," although "VTRs were S.O.P." for the tenacious aspirant.

"Then we got a phone call telling us that I got the project," he says in an interview with INQUIRER Entertainment. "But my family was hesitant at first because they thought I wouldn't be right for the role."

Maximo, the titular character in question, is a gay teenager living in a household of tough guys and petty thieves. To make matters more melodramatic, Maxi is hopelessly infatuated with an incorruptible cop.

Think of a *bading* Charito Solis in "Malvarosa."

Understandably, the prospect daunted the budding actor.

"It's because I'm not gay," he says. "But in school, I could always make my classmates laugh when I pretended to be gay."

In a lot of ways, what pulled him through was his natural grace, which can be attributed to his talent and training as a dancer.

"I used to be part of a dance group with my twin brother Gami," he says. "We were called Street Kids."

To further hone his skills, Nathan attended rigorous workshops under theater stalwart Soliman Cruz, who also played his gruff but loving father in the movie.

"Soliman told us that Nathan was like clay that could still be easily molded," says Raymond Lee, producer of the winning movie. "He did wonders on Nathan."

"They kept reminding me that I was not Nathan anymore," Nathan relates. "On the set, I was Maxi. Also, they told me to always maintain my focus and passion."

But on the film's gala night at the CCP Little Theater, Nathan was again on pins and needles.

"I was embarrassed at first," he says. "They were teasing me about being gay. But every time I heard the audience clapping and laughing, I felt relieved and excited."

That memorable evening, he was with his entire family, including his four sisters and twin brother.

On the awards night, he once again got an attack of nerves, even if his parents were present to lend moral support.

He was euphoric when his name was called as the recipient of a special citation for best performance, a unanimous decision from the esteemed panel of judges chaired by National Artist for Film Eddie Romero and composed of filmmaker Mark Meily, actor Johnny Delgado, Singapore Film Festival director Philip Cheah and INQUIRER columnist Nestor U. Torre

Nathan says of his triumph: "It made me feel very happy."

And vindicated.

Pregnancy becomes her

From page A2-1

band, businessman Anton Lagdameo.

Dawn said spending time in a "very laid-back place" like Davao helped her a lot during the most delicate times of her pregnancy.

"I'm past the critical period. I'm actually enjoying the pregnancy now," said Dawn, who looked stunning in a V-neck beaded copper blouse during an exclusive interview with INQUIRER Entertainment.

But Dawn said she was still being very careful. "I call my doctor often. And I'm still a stickler for cleanliness at home," she said. "When I found out I was pregnant, I ordered everyone in my household to be immunized. I even wear a mask when I take the plane."

The Lagdameos tied the knot in 1997 and waited eagerly for this baby. Dawn said she got pregnant earlier, but suffered a miscarriage. "It was called a chemical pregnancy," she explained. "It happened during my fertility work up. My doctor said that, because of the drug I was taking, my body mimicked pregnancy."

She added: "So when I found out that I was pregnant again, I was happy. But what my doctor told me made me cry. She had my blood tested and discovered that my level of immunity was so low. She said I could have miscarriage. I said, '*Akala ko pa naman, ito na.*'"

Just to be sure

Dawn's doctor referred her to an immunologist, who immediately advised her to have the drug Heparin injected into her stomach. "This medicine is an anti-coagulant," said Dawn. "The doctor said my blood was thick and there was a possibility that my blood would clot."

Still, Dawn's doctors said they could not guarantee the safety of Dawn's baby. "They said 'Let's see. If you were really pregnant, the baby would stay in your womb.' Imagine that? It was like hearing them say I was imagining things. I cried a lot. I also prayed and prayed. I asked so many people to pray for me. A lot of people responded."

In order for Dawn to concentrate on her pregnancy, she had to make major changes in her work schedule. At the time she found out about her condition, Dawn was working on GMA 7's fanta-serye "Encantadia," where she plays the role of Inang Reyna.

"It was hard to explain to GMA 7 that I could only stay up until midnight and that I couldn't push my body to do strenuous things," the actress shared. "There were scenes that required me to do physical activity, like fighting with a sword. I didn't want to risk it; of course neither did GMA 7. The producers just took that scene out of the script. I also had to be careful that I didn't slip. I don't wear high-heeled shoes anymore."

But Dawn said that, despite of the delicate pregnancy, she would not give up her acting career. In fact, she recently did a pictorial for the Belo Medical Group, of which she is one of the endorsers.

No bed rest

"Luckily, my doctor didn't require bed rest. She said I have to move around. She even told me to exercise as soon as I get better. Pretty soon, I'll be taping for 'Encantadia' again. Work will not be out of my agenda. There will only be a period when I have to stop because I'd have to breast-feed," she stressed.

Dawn said the toughest problem she had to deal with was learning to inject medicine into her tummy. "*Bugbog ang tiyan ko*," she said. "There was a time when I had to inject medicine twice a day. It was so painful, I sometimes I had to pull the needle out and insert it again. Each time I did this, blood would come out. I didn't want to wait for the nurse or my husband, who had his own schedule. The medicine has to be injected every 12 hours. There were days when I really wanted to quit. But the doctor said this has to continue until the eighth month."

To fight depression, Dawn said it helped to share her experiences with other expecting mothers, including her two sisters-in-law, one of whom gave birth last month. Dawn also read a lot of pregnancy books.

"You can't help having negative thoughts sometimes. I think hormones cause this," she said. "There are days when I'm such a pessimist. I have moments when I ask myself, 'Is this for real? What if I miscarry? What if? What if?' Whenever I have moments like that, I pray. I also discuss it with my husband."

The baby will come between Nov. 26 and Dec. 9, she said.

"Though my doctor didn't order me to go on a diet, she said I'd have to have my sugar level tested very soon. I'm already eight pounds overweight," she said. "I admire any woman whose condition is worse than mine because what she goes through, you can be sure, requires so much courage."

DAWN gave up high heels for her baby. RAFFY LERMA

GEOFF Eigenmann

When I grow older . . .

HIS FATHER Michael de Mesa started to lose hair at age 17, but Geoff Eigenmann is confident that he has passed that critical stage experienced by the males in his family.

Geoff's uncle, Mark Gil, also started to lose hair at 17.

Thanks to his mother Gina Alajar's genes, Geoff, 21, still has a full head of hair.

"I think I'm safe," Geoff told INQUIRER Entertainment.

Geoff hosts the "CloseUp to Fame" model search with Heart Evangelista on ABS CBN. The reality-based weekly show is aired Saturdays at 4:30 pm.

Nini Valera

'Hate-disdain' relationship

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THERE'S a disturbing development on the local film scene that should be brought out into the open and discussed, before it continues to fester and poisons the air with its sad negativism.

This is the growing inimical relationship between the mainstream movie industry and the increasingly productive alternative film sector.

While quite a number of mainstream film people profess to support the development of new filmmakers, some of them privately hold the view that alternative filmmakers tend to be concerned mostly with self-expression and "experimentation," at the expense of communicating with and entertaining the mass film audience.

In addition, some observers believe that a number of new feature-film directors have a hard time going beyond the short-film mode. Thus, their full-length narrative movies are sometimes too drawn-out and slowly paced to continually interest and involve viewers.

Commercial vs indie

Alternative filmmakers are also occasionally faulted for being technically inexperienced, and this deficiency has a tellingly negative effect on their movies.

In addition, their choice of stories and themes is sometimes deemed too arcane, personal or "involuted," and therefore can't elicit viewers' empathy.

If the view is dark and cynical from some mainstream film people's vantage point, it's decidedly bleak from the perspective of a number of alternative filmmakers:

A few of them even go to the extreme of dismissing mainstream cinema here as "not just dying, but already dead." Ouch!

Others who aren't quite as harsh in their disdain have little regard for mainstream movie people, whose works they describe as too commercial, formula-oriented, star-subservient, excessively imitative of foreign movies, and generally bereft of freshness, commitment and genuine inspiration.

Wide chasm

Some alternative filmmakers believe that local cinema's serious problems today are mostly the fault of the mainstream film industry, which has taken its audience for granted.

They are angry about this, because their own prospects for reaching out to that audience have been compromised by what they perceive to be the mainstream industry's cavalier "dereliction of duty."

Is there any way to get the disdainful mainstream film person and the angry alternative filmmaker together, despite the wide chasm that currently divides some of them?

A first step would be to acknowledge that such an enmity and grievous divergence of views exists. We trust that this piece has helped initiate that acceptance of reality.

Next, all Filipino film people, no matter where they're coming from, should realize that they're here to serve the same audience, the country's film viewers.

Let's work together

Those viewers deserve the best work that both mainstream and alternative filmmakers are capable of, so the two sectors should rise above their admittedly grave differences.

Mainstream people should admit they've made mistakes that have resulted in the currently dismal state of cinema in this country. For their part, alternative filmmakers should similarly face up to their own limitations.

And both sides should resolve to start fresh, rise above invectives and tirades, and concentrate on coming up with movies good and affecting enough to persuade viewers here to once more support Filipino films—of whatever provenance!

All else is futile and counter-productive, and would only further exacerbate the grimly inimical situation that already exists. Let's try to work together, shall we?

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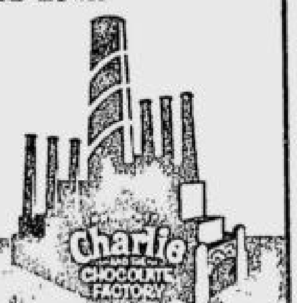
Willy Wonka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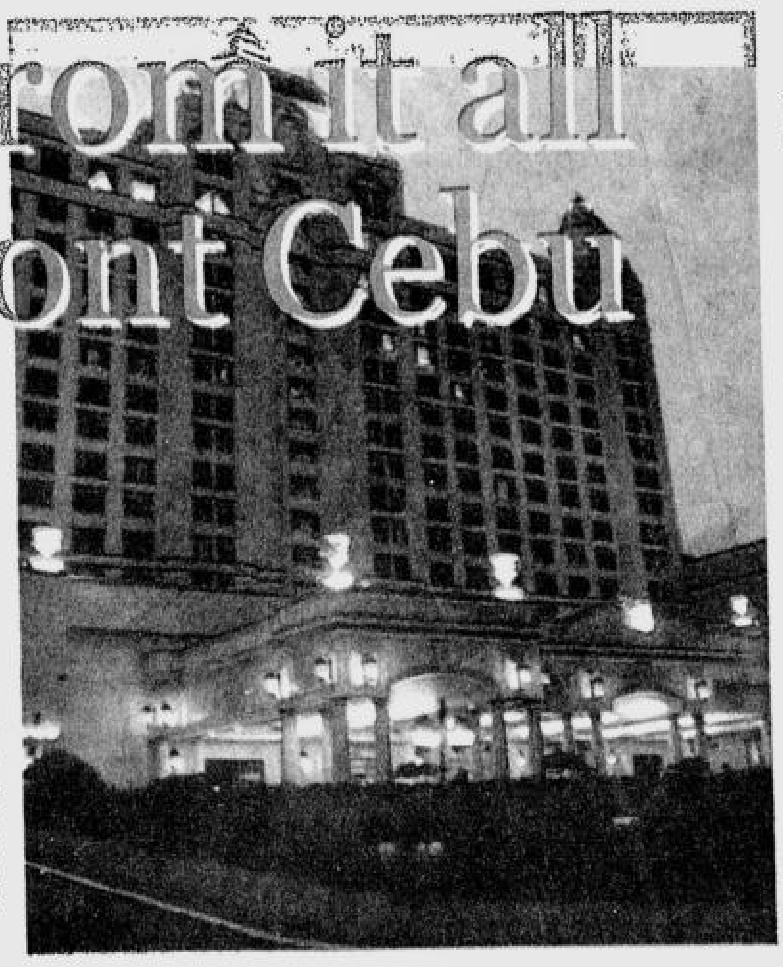

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The flair of Vietnam at Thien Duong

"SUSTENANCE is key to good health, healthy food is Vietnamese food."

Thien Duong, Dusit Hotel Nikko's authentic Vietnamese restaurant, introduces its new Chef Nguyen Minh Nguyen who hails from Nam Dinh, Vietnam. For his opening salvo, he prepared 9 savory dishes for diners to sample like Bo Tai Trah (beef salad with lemon leaves and sesame seed), Xup Ga Ngo Hon (baby corn soup with chicken), Ga Nau Cury Cot Dua (braised chicken in curry and steamed rice), Bo Xao Dua (stir-fried beef with pineapple "hanoi style"), Nom Hai San (seafood salad) and more.

Chef Nguyen brings with him a youthful flair adding a new dimension and a unique twist in traditional Vietnamese cooking. With Chef Nguyen at the helm of Dusit Hotel Nikko's Thien Dong Vietnamese Restaurant, expect no less but the finest in Vietnamese cuisine and a distinct yet authentic gastronomic experience from diners.

Time is precious for busy executives, that is why Thien Duong brings back the "Executive Express" set menus this July consisting of salad, soup, main dish and dessert. Guests can choose from among the two sets priced at P650++ and P700++ per person.

Thien Duong is located at the ground floor of Dusit Hotel Nikko. For queries, call 867-3333.

Italian Style is back at Bocarinos

THE NEW WORLD Renaissance Hotel's stylish resto Bocarinos brings back "Cucina Simpatica", Comfort Food, Italian Style, starting July 11. "Cucina Simpatica" offers a selection of delectable dishes that warms the stomach as well as the heart. It is Italian comfort food such as steaming hearty soups, fresh salads, rich and creamy sauces over pasta and rice, and superb veal, shrimp, and chicken—all made with love reminiscent of the simplicity of home cooking that is absolutely delicious.

Savor nostalgic and truly authentic dishes such as Grilled Calamari and Artichokes with Spicy Olive Vinaigrette; Breaded Veal Scallopine with Marinara Sauce and Mozzarella; Ossobuco with Gremolata and Soft Polenta; Linguini with Clams, White Wine, and Garlic; Grilled Lamb Chops with Rosemary Potatoes, among other Italian all-time favorites. For dessert, there is Italian Sponge Cake with Hazelnut Gelato, Tiramisu, Panna Cotta, and more.

"Cucina Simpatica" is featured in the "Perfect Bite" Menu offered for lunch and dinner at Bocarinos at P765+ per person. Bocarinos is open Mondays to Fridays, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 6 to 10 p.m.; Saturdays at 6 to 10 p.m.

For more information and reservations, call the New World Renaissance Hotel at 811-6888.

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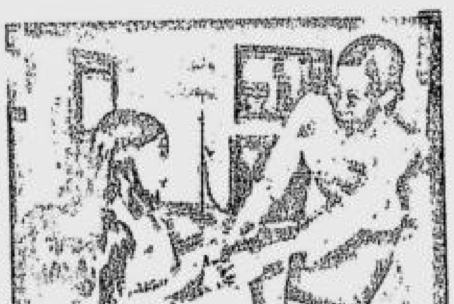
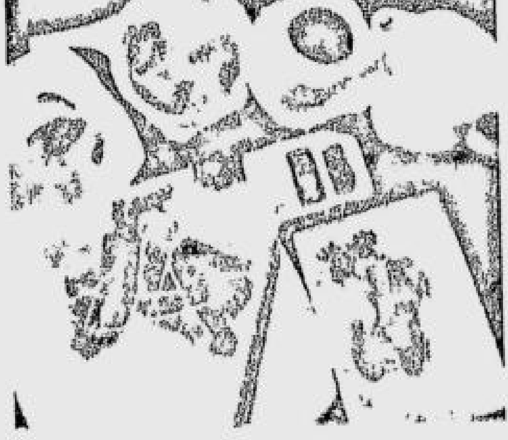


The Somerset Hosts offer services such as pre-moving in consultation, unpacking/packing services, security and safety briefings, monthly residents' activities (e.g. sports events, country explorations and social gatherings), personalized fitness programs, grocery delivery, mailing of letters and postcards, transportation arrangements, assistance in local tours and more.

Rio Bar Cafe's Kebab Festival

THIS JULY, Rio Bar Café and Restaurant brings to you these tempting treats. Try the irresistible Kebab specialties at affordable prices: Flaming Sword (shown)—tenderloin beef, breast chicken, pork loin and shrimp with mashed potato and carrots (P360), Beef Asparagus Kebab with mashed potato and vegetable sidings (P465), Seafood Kebab with Java Rice (P390) and Pork Kebab (P185) or Chicken Kebab (P175) with Nasegoreng rice. Other specials include Lamb Chops with Hollandaise sauce, mashed potato and asparagus at P430 and Chicken Potato Salad at only P205. For inquiries and reservations, call the Rio Bar Café at 523-1000. Rio Bar Café and Restaurant is located at the lobby level of The Executive Plaza Hotel, 1630 A. Mabini Street, Malate, Manila.

COCOY'S RESTAURANT AND STA. FE COFFEESHOP FOOD TRIP OF THE MONTH



As the rainy season continues, Palm Plaza Hotel and Las Palmas Hotel presents to you their latest creation for the month of July —Japanese cuisine with a mix of Korean dish. Enjoy a bowl of steaming Miso Soup, a choice between the tempting Pan Seared Tuna Loin or the irresistible Korean Fried Chicken and mouth-watering Japanese Panacotta deliciously priced at P360 nett per person only. Promo comes with a free pot of Japanese Green Tea. (Shown is a Korean Fried Chicken combination) For reservations and other inquiries, call Cocoy's Restaurant at 522-1000 and Sta. Fe Coffeeshop at 521-1000.

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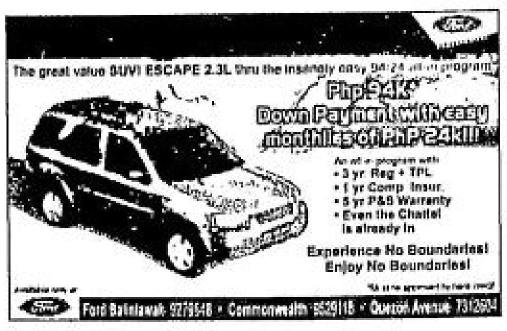

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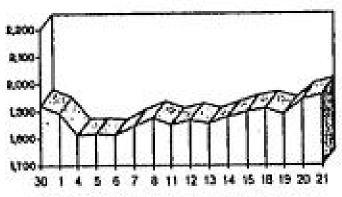
As of 3 p.m., July 21, 2005

GOLD: $423.30-423.80
per ounce Hong Kong, July 21, 2005

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Shares close higher

SHARE prices yesterday closed 0.83 percent higher, extending gains as investors continued to take positions ahead of the release of first half corporate results, dealers said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index rose 16.05 points to 1,960.76 after trading between 1,944.71 and 1,964.30. Volume was 828.2 million shares worth P1.01 billion. *AFP*

Foreign investments down 75%

RP still lags behind Asian neighbors in attracting capital

By Doris C. Dumlao

FOREIGN direct investments registered with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas dropped by 75 percent in January to April to $102.57 million from $407.29 million a year ago.

The impact on foreign investments of the prevailing political jitters in the country will be reflected in the BSP investment reports in the coming months.

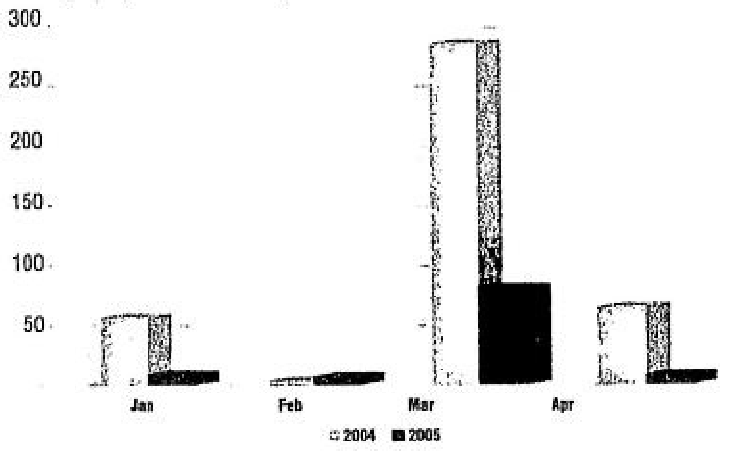
Perceptions of macroeconomic instability, corruption and poor infrastructure are seen as the top three factors behind the poor investment climate in the country, according to surveys earlier conducted by the World Bank and Asian Development Bank.

The inflow of foreign direct investment flows was lower than that of foreign portfolio investments or "hot money." During the same four-month period, net inflows of "hot money" surged by almost 12 times to $1.72 billion from only $146.5 million a year ago.

This indicated that while business senti-

FOREIGN/ B4

BSP-registered foreign direct investments
January to April 2004 & 2005, in million US$



WHAT'S INSIDE

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10 banks prequalified to bid for 67% of PNB

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance announced yesterday that 10 local and foreign companies have pre-qualified to bid for the 67-percent stake of the Philippine National Bank.

The sale, estimated to bring in P16 billion in proceeds, was touted to be the government's biggest privatization project for the year.

"We are greatly encouraged by the high level of investor interest in this joint sale. This is a significant milestone in our privatization program and will help us partially recover the losses incurred by the suspension of the Expanded Value Added Tax," said Finance Secretary Margarito Teves yesterday.

Teves, however, declined to identify the 10 banks.

Only the Bank of the Philippine Islands earlier confirmed its plan to bid for the PNB shares.

The DOF said the bidding would be held on Aug. 12, and that four of the 10 companies have already begun their due diligence of the PNB.

PNB is jointly owned by the government and the Lucio Tan group, each owning a 45-percent stake.

The remaining 10 percent is held by the public.

PNB, the fifth largest domestic bank in the country, has 324 branches and offices nationwide, and 97 branches and offices overseas.

The bank earlier posted a P151-million net profit in the first quarter of 2005, up 70 percent compared with the comparative figure last year.

The bank suffered five years of consecutive losses until it recorded a turnaround profit of P168 million in 2003 and P353 million in 2004.

Wanting to become the sole majority owner of the PNB, the Lucio Tan group has exercised its right of first offer under its Joint Sale Agreement with the Philippine government.

By exercising its right, the Lucio Tan group will be allowed to match the highest bid.

By setting a floor price of P43 per share, the government is estimated to generate about P16 billion from the sale of PNB shares. The amount is expected to help boost government's revenue collection efforts, which were dampened by the suspension of the expanded VAT law.

The Supreme Court issued a temporary restraining order on the EVAT, considered the cornerstone of the administration's fiscal reform program, following petitions filed by opposition lawmakers and petroleum dealers.

The DOF estimated that the government has been losing P130 million a day due to the suspension of the EVAT.

The EVAT expanded the coverage of the tax to include oil and electricity, among others, and gave the President a standby authority to raise the VAT rate from 10 to 12 percent next year.

Philippine National Bank

THE PRIVATIZATION of PNB is touted to be the biggest for the year.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

GO/GAISANO FAMILY SETS THE RECORD STRAIGHT

This is to inform the general public that in the July 15, 2005 publication of the Inquirer (at page B-4) to the effect that Jimmy T. Go a.k.a. Jaime T. Gaisano is "Wanted," by the Bureau of Immigration by virtue of a supposed Warrant of Deportation dated 11 May 2005 allegedly "enforcing the final and executory deportation order dated 17 April 2002", is altogether MISLEADING and DECEPTIVE, designed to harass and tarnish the good name and reputation of our client. The BID caused the publication as a form of **VINDICATIVE RETALIATION AND HARASSMENT** since Comm. Alipio Fernandez Jr. and his BID Agents are presently facing Criminal and Administrative complaints filed by Jimmy T. Go for Violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act. (R.A. 3019) before the Office of Ombudsman (Omb. Case No. [Crim.] C-C-05-0186-E and C-A [Adm.] 05-0189-E).

Firstly, the 17 April 2002 deportation order issued by the BID is presently pending review elevated to the Honorable Court of Appeals under Rule 43 of the Revised Rules of Civil Procedure and docketed therein before the, 14th Division as CA-G.R. No. 88840.

Secondly, a TRO dated February 9, 2005 was issued by the Court of Appeals, Third Division, enjoining the implementation of the BID Decision and Deportation Order dated 17 April 2002. Notably, the Court said, **"It would cause serious and irreparable damage to petitioner if he will be deported from the Philippines pending resolution of the cases he filed pursuant to his cause and belief that he is a Filipino citizen".**

In the interim, the Court of Appeals is still to resolve the propriety of whether or not the application for a Writ of Preliminary Injunction is justified, hence, the sweeping and inaccurate conclusion that the deportation order is final and executory, is **MISLEADING.**

Finally, pending before the Supreme Court is Jimmy T. Go's Petition for Review which is docketed therein as **G.R. No. 167570, First Division,** praying to set aside and annul the 17 April 2002 Deportation Order of the BID.

Atty. Gregorio D. Cañeda, Jr.
Noah's Ark Bldg., Escolta, Manila
Counsel for Jimmy T. Go a.k.a. Jaime T. Gaisano

Japanese confidence in RP improving

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE BUSINESS sentiment among Japanese companies operating in Southeast Asia has leveled out this month, after going through a downtrend in most of the past months of the year, according to a survey by the Japan External Trade Organization.

Jetro yesterday reported that over the last several months, diffusion indices for Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore have "often crept into negative territory, revealing a clear disparity in business confidence by location in the region."

The diffusion index is the difference between the ratio of positive ("better") and negative ("worse") responses.

Overall current business sentiment "slightly improved" in July for the five Southeast Asian countries included in the survey—Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

In particular, current sentiment improved over the previous month in Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines, while Singapore and Thailand suffered declines.

Based on the survey results, the Philippines posted a DI of 1.9 in January. This dipped in the next five months to as low as negative 8.6 percent in June.

Latest data show that business sentiments of Japanese firms on the country has recovered although this remained negative at 6 percent.

The monthly survey covers Japanese companies and affiliates operating in 12 countries or regions of East Asia, which means Southeast Asia and China, South Korea and Taiwan.

Jetro polls the companies to measure year-on-year changes, expressed as diffusion indices (DI), in their business outlook for the current month and the following two or three months.

Firms were asked to compare earnings prospects, supply and demand, inventory, sales prices and accounts receivable with the same period last year.

The current month and the following two to three months were evaluated separately for each question. Replies were limited to "better," "same" or "worse" than a year earlier.

RAINY DAY SALE
Warm headgear and mufflers have come out of the warehouses as rains start to fall on cool Baguio City.
PHOTO BY EV ESPIRITU

Powdered juices subject to 48% duty, BOC says

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE BUREAU of Customs' Valuation and Classification Appeals Board has ruled that imported pre-mixed juices are subject to a 48 percent duty.

This overturns the board's earlier decision to subject pre-mixed juices to an import duty of only 3 percent, which was questioned by the Sugar Regulatory Authority and sugar producers.

According to SRA Administrator James Christopher Ledesma, reclassifying the powdered juice imports of Kraft Foods International, maker of Tang juices, assured the government of additional revenues of at least P205 million a year.

"The decision was primarily based on tests, which showed that the product in question is more than 90 percent sugar, with just flavoring and coloring agents added," the BOC Valuation and Classification Appeals Board said in its report.

The Board said it took into consideration Executive Order 295 issued by President Macapagal-Arroyo, which imposed a 48 percent duty on pre-mixed juices if they have a sugar content of more than 65 percent in dry weight.

Arroyo issued EO 295 in March last year to add to revenue collections and adhere to international standards of harmonized product classification.

Prior to the EO, sugar-based powdered juice products were misclassified or incorrectly declared as mere ingredients, thus subjecting them to a duty of only 3 percent.

The Confederation of Sugar Producers Associations (Confed), claiming to be the country's biggest group of sugar producers, argued however that the continued importation of these powdered drinks at very low duties was detrimental to the local sugar industry.

Confed national president Rey Bantug said the continued importation of products at very low tariff rates by a select group of importers will kill not only the local sugar industry but also local juice manufacturers who pay the proper duties to support the country.

Empowered to assist the Bureau of Customs and the Bureau of Internal Revenue in determining the appropriate classification of sugar and sugar products, SRA pointed out that Kraft's Tang juices had been incorrectly assessed by the Commission.

The issue of selective implementation of the EO was also raised in Congress and the Department of Agriculture after the SRA brought up the issue with Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the Department of Finance (DOF).

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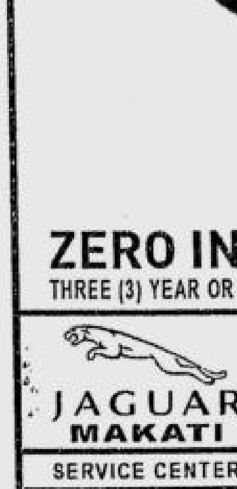

By Vicky Veloso-Barrera & Chit Juan
Published by Anvil Publishing

July 22, 2005 Today's Question:
Which National Artist wrote the poetry collection *Marginal Annotations*?
A. Edith Tiempo B. Jose Garcia Villa C. Francisco Arcellana

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07-21-05 Answer: C
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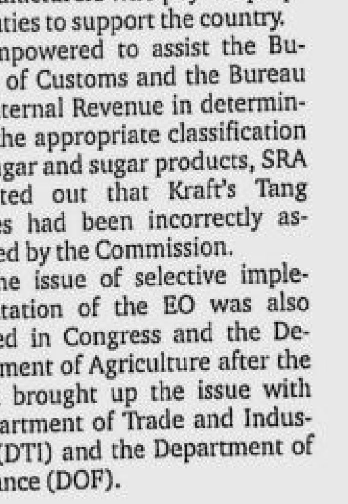

2nd quarter economic growth seen at 4.7-5.1%

Slower than expected but still a welcome development

By Michelle V. Remo

THE COUNTRY'S economic growth is likely to range between 4.7 and 5.1 percent in the second quarter of the year despite the political troubles of President Macapagal-Arroyo, the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) yesterday said.

The estimated second quarter growth rate was higher than the first quarter gross domestic product growth of 4.6 percent, but still below the government's 5.3 to 6.3-percent target for the whole year.

Neda officials blamed a host of factors, particularly the unstable political environment, for the lower-than-projected second quarter performance.

"The biggest drawback is the political climate," said Dennis Arroyo, head of the Neda's policy and planning staff.

He said that recent political events, particularly the mounting calls for President Arroyo to step down, prompted investor to adopt a wait-and-see attitude and resulted in increases in the interest rates on Philippine debt papers.

The Neda has earlier conceded the high-end of the 5.3 to 6.3-percent GDP growth target for the year might no longer be attainable.

Another drag to the second quarter economic growth, said Arroyo in a press briefing yesterday, was the slowdown in the global demand for electronics, the country's top export product.

Exports posted a mere 4-percent in the first five months of the year, way below the 10-percent target for the full year. Exports reached $16.045 billion in the January-to-May, up from $15.421 billion in the same period last year.

Electronic products registered a 3.8-percent decline in May to $2.083 billion from $2.165 billion in the same month last year.

The Neda official also said the relatively high inflation, at 7.6 percent in June, and unemployment rate of 8.3 percent contributed in the lower growth performance during the three-month period. High inflation and unemployment normally cause tightening in public consumption.

However, Arroyo said there were also positive events in the second quarter that prevented a worse economic performance during the period.

These include the recovery of the agriculture sector, which was adversely affected in the first quarter by the El Niño weather phenomenon, the continued strong performance of the services sector (specifically business process outsourcing), and faster deficit reduction by the national government.

SANTOS

New Neda boss supports higher gov't spending

THE NEW chief of the National Economic and Development Authority said he wanted the government to increase spending for vital services as a strategy to boost the country's economy.

"For the economy to grow, we need to spend more. In meeting the government's deficit target, I would rather that we raise more revenue than cut on spending," said newly appointed Neda Director General Augusto Santos.

Santos, who has been with the Neda for 30 years, suggested that the government should focus on four things in increasing spending: basic health, education, nutrition and infrastructure.

The country's new chief economist said the government's weak spending, especially on infrastructure, was a reason the country was not able to attract enough investments. To promote economic activity, he said, the Philippines should increase its spending at least to a level matching those of its neighboring countries.

Government data show that spending for capital outlay accounts for only 10 percent of the Philippine budget, equivalent to only 2.1 percent of the country's gross domestic product. Santos said capital outlay spending of neighboring countries was much higher. The figure in Thailand, for instance, is about 8 or 9 percent of GDP.

But while Santos was pushing for increased government spending, he said this should only be done together with increasing revenue collection. The proposal to allocate more funds for basic services and infrastructure should come after the attainment of a zero budget deficit, he said.

Santos said the Expanded Value Added Tax law, whose implementation was suspended by the Supreme Court, would largely boost government revenue collection and help achieve the country's fiscal targets. *Michelle V. Remo*

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Growth Fund - Peso	1.00000	-
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.1166	1.1057

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission

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SEC urged to rap EPCIB execs

By Doris C. Dumlao, Elizabeth Sanchez and Daxim L. Lucas

THE GOVERNMENT Service Insurance System yesterday called for a probe of a conflicting court order that allowed the voting of a 10.8-percent stake in Equitable PCIBank.

The shares in question are owned by the bank's subsidiary EBC Investments Inc. (EBCII).

In a press statement, GSIS president Winston Garcia also asked the Securities and Exchange Commission to file charges against certain EPCI Bank officials, including Roberto Romulo.

According to Garcia, Romulo continues to perform tasks for the bank despite an order from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the SEC barring him from assuming a position on the board.

Garcia also requested the SEC to forward to the Department of Justice the criminal charges that would be filed against the EPCI Bank officials.

Romulo, Antonio Go, Peter Go Pailan, Anthony Conway and Nilo Divina were named as respondents in Garcia's complaint.

Garcia also filed a similar complaint against Cesar Bautista, who was elected independent director of EPCIB, even though he was disqualified from the position—a fact that was not made known to the stockholders during their meeting on July 19.

Garcia also cited the "unusual circumstances" surrounding the July 15 issuance of a preliminary mandatory injunction by Judge Sixto Marella Jr. of Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 138.

In the first place, Garcia said, Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 61 had already issued a temporary restraining order that same day, preventing the Go group from voting the treasury shares equivalent to a 10.84-percent stake in EPCI Bank.

The Go family voted the shares during the controversial stockholders' meeting last Tuesday.

That day, the bank's biggest voting bloc—consisting of the GSIS, the Social Security System and the Romualdez family—walked out of the annual meeting after the corporate secretary, Nilo Divina, foiled attempts to declare the chair's seat vacant.

The two groups then held their own stockholders' meetings and elected their own sets of board members.

The GSIS-SSS bloc named Martin Romualdez as chair, while the other bloc retained Antonio Go.

In a phone interview, Romualdez said that the bank's owners have "full confidence in the abilities of the professional management."

The chair of the SSS-GSIS bloc also said that the bank would continue to operate "normally" despite the high profile shareholders' squabble that have left it with two competing boards of directors.

"It's business as usual as far as bank operations are concerned," he said. "We want to assure all our clients that there are no disruptions."

According to Romualdez, the bank does not need to approach financial regulators for help.

Their group has been exhausting all means to normalize the bank "as soon as possible," he added.

Asian marts to set up regional grouping

FIVE ASEAN bourses yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding to create a regional grouping of internationally recognized indices for the Asean equity markets.

In a statement, the Philippine Stock Exchange, together with Bursa Malaysia, Jakarta Stock Exchange, Singapore Exchange, The Stock Exchange of Thailand and global index provider FTSE Group (FTSE), inked an understanding where FTSE would create a set of indices for the trading and benchmarking of financial products such as institutional and retail funds, Exchange Traded Funds, and derivatives contracts.

The PSE said the indices will be designed using international standards. The free-float indices will be adjusted and based on the widely used FTSE Industry Classification Benchmark (ICB).

"This is the first collaborative effort amongst the five Exchanges under the Asean umbrella, and we see this as paving the way for future collaborations between the Exchanges," the five bourses said in a joint statement. "The development of indices based on international standards and recognized methodology by FTSE will facilitate the international visibility of the Asean markets, and help promote the Asean economies to both regional and global investors by branding Asean as an asset class."

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

Sun lures in 1.8M clients in first half

SUN CELLULAR has increased its subscriber base to 1.8 million by the end of the first half and is on track with its target of hitting at least 2.5 million customers by yearend, said a senior official of Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.

William Pamintuan, Digitel senior vice president, said that by the second half, the wireless brand will launch another innovative promo to attract more customers.

The two-year-old Gokongwei wireless company added about 200,000 subscribers during the second quarter from about 1.6 million in end-March.

Sun Cellular, the wireless brand of Digitel Mobile Phils. Inc., set off a price war when it launched its unlimited 24/7 promo last October.

The National Telecommunications Commission allowed Sun Cellular to continue its 24/7 promo. In May, the NTC ruled in favor of Sun Cellular when it junked petitions of its bigger competitors to stop the 24/7 promo.

The unlimited, within-network promo drove wireless subscriber growth for the Gokongwei phone company. Sun Cellular customers stood only at about 700,000 before 24/7 was launched in October last year.

"We will launch something during the second half," Pamintuan said. "We hope that the new scheme would drive subscription higher."

He explained that subscriber growth was normally stronger during the second half of the year primarily fueled by Christmas spending.

Clarissa S. Batino

Correcting our flawed trade policy

COMMENTARY

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

STRONG words.

On July 20, the last day of the conference on "Defining the National Development Agenda in Global Trade Talks," the Fair Trade Alliance (FTA) approved the following position: "After three decades of faithful adherence to the neo-liberal development paradigm of unilateral trade and economic liberalization, the Philippines has become less industrialized, its agriculture a virtual wasteland, and the treasury dependent on foreign borrowings.

"It is time that this paradigm be junked and replaced with a more pragmatic, more balanced, and more pro-Filipino and Asia-like approach to trade and development issues."

Background

On Sept. 11, 2001, the same day terrorists attacked the Twin Towers in New York City, a good thing happened on our side of the world.

For the first time, representatives of Philippine industry, labor, agriculture and civil society set aside their differences and agreed to work together to improve domestic industries and agriculture, jobs, and livelihood.

These sectors unanimously acknowledged the damage and harmful effects of rapid trade liberalization.

On that day, the Fair Trade Alliance was born.

Almost four years later, former senator and FTA main convenor Wigberto Tañada addressed the FTA conference during the opening ceremony.

"Two weeks ago, the Philippines made a report to the Trade and Policy Review body of the WTO in Geneva," Tañada said. "The Philippine report appears harmless, until one comes across a short note—the official claim that the liberalization program pursued by the government under various administrations, past and present, has been generally positive for the economy. Thus, the recommendation for the Philippines to go full steam ahead with the further liberalization of the economy."

In another document written by a senior Philippine government representative to the WTO, the official cited the benefits the Filipino people had derived from the World Trade Organization. He made no mention of the WTO's harmful effects.

The presentation was one-sided and far from balanced.

Analysis

Has our trade policy been beneficial for our people, as many government reports claim? Or has it instead been harmful?

There is no argument that liberalization, in the long run, is good for the Philippines, and for the rest of the world. But each country has to decide the right pace of liberalization, consistent with its unique position in the global arena.

Several empirical studies have already shown that the rate of liberalization should have to be slow for a country that is weak. As the country improves its comparative advantage, then the rate of liberalization must be accelerated.

During the conference, an Alyansa Agrikultura leader showed a comparative picture of Thailand and the Philippines.

In the early 1980s, Thailand and the Philippines had a per capita GDP of about $1,000. Today, Thailand's per capita is $2,000. This is double our per capita which, after more than 20 years, remains at $1,000.

What did Thailand do to make the difference? First, their tariff rates are, on average, three times those of the Philippines. Second, they take full advantage of the flexibility provided in the WTO by protecting their sensitive sectors with high tariff rates while the sectors are still being strengthened.

In agriculture, while both Thailand and the Philippines were allowed an average maximum bound rate of 35 percent by the WTO, Thailand implemented an effective applied rate of 29 percent. On the other hand, the Philippines unilaterally implemented a very low 8-percent rate.

Thailand is now very much ahead of the Philippines. From 1982-2001, its agriculture grew by 6.5 percent. In the Philippines, the sector grew at barely over half that rate with 3.6 percent.

As a result of our low tariff rates, our trade balance rapidly deteriorated. In 1993, our exports were $1.9 billion. Over 12 years, they increased by 31 percent to $2.5 billion.

On the other hand, our imports in 1993, pegged at $1.6 billion, increased by 81 percent to $3.7 billion.

In 1993 we were a net exporter. Today, we are a large net importer, such that, for every $1 we export, we import $1.47.

Numerous other examples were given to demonstrate how our trade policy has damaged our agriculture.

Consequently, several resolutions were passed to correct our misguided trade policy. Some of these are:

- To resist any required reduction in agricultural tariffs, unless other countries likewise reduce their subsidies;
- To increase tariffs, whenever appropriate, toward the bound rates;
- To use the newly recommended WTO provisions on special products and special safeguard measures (for which we credit our Philippine trade negotiators such as Agriculture Undersecretary Segfredo Serrano) in exercising maximum flexibility for increasing bound rates and allowing quantitative restrictions.

RP trade representative

The most important resolution of the recently concluded FTA conference called for "the immediate passage of a law creating the Philippine Trade Representative Office, with multisectoral composition, charged with the job of strategizing and coordinating all trade talks and ensuring full transparency and consultation with stakeholders."

The office has a counterpart in the United States—the "Special Trade Representative" (STR), which falls under the Office of the US President.

We believe it is this mechanism that can best correct our flawed trade policy, which has caused so much damage to our economy. While waiting for the law's passage, which may take some time, we recommend that the President immediately issue an executive order to create such a mechanism.

Decisive actions such as this and a clear statement correcting our flawed trade policy will do much in giving us hope for a better future.

(The author is the chair of Agriwatch, a private sector initiative; former Cabinet secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects, and former undersecretary for agriculture, and trade and industry. For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatchphil @ yahoo.com or telefax 8516635)

Foreign investments down 75%

From page B1

ment was turning rosy during the period, investors remained cautious—preferring to put their money in liquid instruments like stocks and government securities instead of building factories or putting up capital- and labor-intensive enterprises.

For the month of April alone, the FDI inflows to the country dwindled to $8.45 million from the year-high of $79.99 million posted in March, the BSP report showed.

Inflows in January and February hit $7.74 million and $6.39 million, respectively.

The FDIs that went to the Philippines represented a small fraction of the billions of dollars of foreign investments infused into developing countries in Asia. The net FDIs to Asian countries rose from $49 billion in 2002 to about $62 billion in 2004, according to a World Bank estimate.

The FDIs in the first four months of the year were mainly infused into non-bank financial intermediation businesses ($63 million) and wholesale and retail trade ($17.29 million). Fresh inflows to the manufacturing sector reached only $7.95 million.

The Asian Development Bank, in a report of its country assistance strategy for 2005 to 2007 released yesterday, said the weak investment climate in the country was partly due to fiscal constraints.

It noted that between 1999 and 2004, the share of national government revenues set aside to cover interest expenditures rose from 22 percent to 37 percent while its debt as a share of gross domestic product increased from 55 percent to 74 percent.

When the debts of government-owned and -controlled corporations, such as the National Power Corp. are included, the debt-GDP ratio rose from 84 percent to 101 percent.

The ADB said these numbers demonstrated two critical aspects of the fiscal challenges the Philippines face: first, the sharp decline in the share of government resources that can be used for development expenditures, and second, the growing perception that the Philippines had come close to fiscal unsustainability.

"These fiscal problems have had a negative impact on the investment climate. Investor perception of risk of macroeconomic instability has been one of the main obstacles to foreign investment," the ADB report said.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of July 21, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	29.5	29.5	29	29.5	927,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	49.5	50.5	49.5	50	2,518,300
China Banking Corp.	755	775	755	775	450
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	500
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	100,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	48.5	48.5	47	48	182,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27.5	28	27.5	27.5	389,000
Philippine National Bank	47	47	46	46	20,500
Phil. Savings Bank	32	32.5	32	32.5	4,200
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	11	11	11	11	42,000
Security Bank Corp.	26	26	26	26	900
Union Bank of the Phil.	29.5	29.5	29.5	29.5	10,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	50,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	270	270	270	270	170
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.02	114,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1960	1985	1960	1985	5,400
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	12.5	12.5	11.75	12.5	4,100
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	1,920,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	855	870	855	870	17,270
Ipeople Inc.	3	3	3	3	10,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.2	0.22	0.2	0.22	30,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.7	2.75	2.65	2.65	2,702,000
Transpacific Broadcast	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	15,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1570	1590	1570	1585	42,770
Ivantage Corp.	0.59	0.59	0.59	0.59	20,000
Philweb Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	4,000,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.75	14.75	14.25	14.25	270,100
Manila Electric Co. B	24.5	24.5	24	24.25	68,700
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.7	7	6.7	6.9	31,120,000
Petron Corp.	3.05	3.1	3	3	1,442,000
Trans-Asia Oil And Energy	1.12	1.12	1.1	1.1	146,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.68	1.68	1.68	1.68	5,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	7.7	7.9	7.7	7.8	706,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	10,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	50,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	410,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.2	3.4	3.2	3.2	935,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	64,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.35	3.35	3.3	3.3	28,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	1,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30	31	30	31	21,500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	32.5	33	30.5	31	323,800
San Miguel Corp. A	62	62.5	62	62.5	94,400
San Miguel Corp. B	101	101	100	101	166,290
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	210,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	1,000,000
Ayala Corp.	312.5	320	312.5	317.5	97,700
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.85	4.9	4.85	4.9	51,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	8,300,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.9	1.94	1.9	1.94	584,000
APC Group Inc.	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.245	650,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	53,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.78	0.79	0.75	0.75	1,100,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	20,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	38,500
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	450,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.06	1.08	1.04	1.04	5,449,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	30,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.17	0.175	0.17	0.175	800,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.245	0.26	0.24	0.25	2,860,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.32	2.4	2.32	2.36	2,244,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	300,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	7.1	7.2	6.9	6.9	480,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	43.5	44.5	43	43.5	309,300
Global Equities Inc.	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	2,800,000
Ionics Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	13,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.3	3.3	3.25	3.25	699,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	10,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.3	1.38	1.3	1.34	7,253,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	100,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.26	0.39	0.26	0.39	60,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.33	5,580,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	40,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	200,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.45	0.46	0.45	0.46	140,000
SM Investments Corp.	222	222	217	220	599,100
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	240,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.135	0.14	0.125	0.125	1,930,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.19	0.24	0.19	0.24	270,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.39	0.6	0.39	0.6	60,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1,000
Picop Resources, Inc.	0.0925	0.0925	0.0925	0.0925	1,000,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.96	0.98	0.95	0.97	6,420,000
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	1,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.28	1.3	1.26	1.28	1,510,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	60,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	12.5	12.5	12	12	92,100
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	5,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8	8.2	8	8.1	23,193,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.89	0.92	0.89	0.9	360,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.235	0.24	0.235	0.235	1,200,000
Cebu Prop. Vent B	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	300,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	2,440,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.35	0.37	0.35	0.35	11,960,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.42	1.48	1.42	1.46	12,314,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	1,100,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	100,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	140,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	4.25	4.25	4.2	4.25	157,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	70,000
SM Development Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.4	1.4	431,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	3,135,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	119,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	4.9	5	4.9	5	251,000
Benguet Corp. A	7	7	7	7	7,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.32	4,640,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	2,710,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.017	0.016	0.017	202,600,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.02	0.021	0.02	0.021	178,800,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	27,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.83	0.83	0.82	0.82	400,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.91	0.94	0.91	0.92	3,950,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	28.5	29	28	28	95,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	370,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	64,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.13	0.145	0.13	0.14	11,220,000

DISCLOSURES

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co.'s vice president Leo Posadas disposed of 150 shares on July 19 at P1,530 per share.

* * *

ALLIANCE Global Group Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Aug. 26.

* * *

METRO Pacific Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Aug. 12, 10 a.m., at the Manila Polo Club, Forbes Park, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of March 31 will be entitled to vote.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Estates Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Sept. 23, 2:30 p.m., at Citibank Tower, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of Sept. 1 will be entitled to vote.

* * *

MACONDRAY Plastics Inc. repurchased on July 20 4,850 common shares from the open market at an average price of P2.10 per share.

* * *

KEPPEL Philippines Marine Inc. accepted the resignation of Miraquel Roldan as internal auditor. It appointed Denise Gutierrez to the post.

* * *

PCI Leasing and Finance Inc. elected as directors Antonio Go, Rene Buenaventura, Manolo Arzadon, Cesar Bautista, Gerard Lee Co, Anthony Conway, Antonio Cotoco, Corazon de La Paz, Jonathan Go, Gamelin Oczon, Teodoro Regino, Ferdinand Martin Romualdez, Walter Wassmer, Antonio Basilio and Andres Soriano III. It appointed Sycip, Gorres, Velayo & Co. as external auditor.

Compiled by Cyril L. Bonabente, PDI Research

CURRENCIES

July 21, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.823588	1.000000	55.9040
Japan	Yen	0.007301	0.008865	0.4956
United Kingdom	Pound	1.433784	1.740900	97.3233
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.105889	0.128571	7.1876
Switzerland	Franc	0.639978	0.777061	43.4408
Canada	Dollar	0.674629	0.819135	45.7929
Singapore	Dollar	0.488892	0.593613	33.1853
Australia	Dollar	0.620078	0.752899	42.0901
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.184756	2.652731	148.2983
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.219611	0.266652	14.9069
Brunei	Dollar	0.487445	0.591856	33.0871
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000084	0.000102	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.019549	0.023736	1.3269
UAE	Dirham	0.224270	0.272309	15.2232
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.214200	67.8786
Argentina	Peso	0.287967	0.349650	19.5468
Brazil	Real	0.349008	0.423765	23.6902
Denmark	Kroner	0.133989	0.162689	9.0950
India	Rupee	0.018951	0.023010	1.2864
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.216745	0.263172	14.7124
Mexico	New Peso	0.077533	0.094140	5.2628
New Zealand	Dollar	0.553859	0.672495	37.5952
South Africa	Rand	0.123173	0.149557	8.3608
Korea	Won	0.000791	0.000960	0.0537
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025826	0.031358	1.7530

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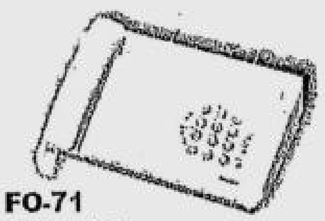
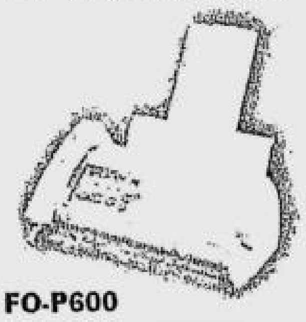
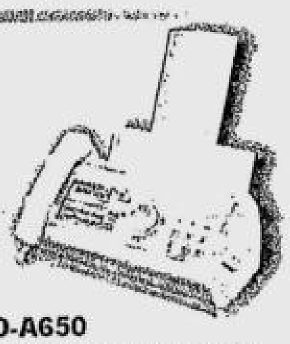


FO-71
448 kb out of paper memory
Basic (auto-cutter)
30 m. thermal roll
40 auto dialer
5-sheet Automatic Doc. Feeder
15 sec. transmission
64 Level Half Tone

Plain paper fax- thermal transfer



FO-P600
448 Kb out of paper memory
(Approx. 24 pages)
64 Level Half Tone
30 auto dialer
10-sheet Automatic Doc. Feeder
50-sheet paper tray
Broadcasting
Memory Transmission
15 sec. transmission



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10-sheet Automatic Doc. Feeder
50-sheet paper tray
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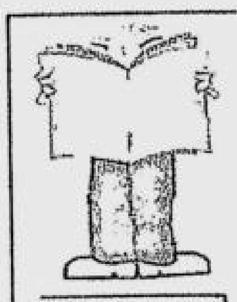

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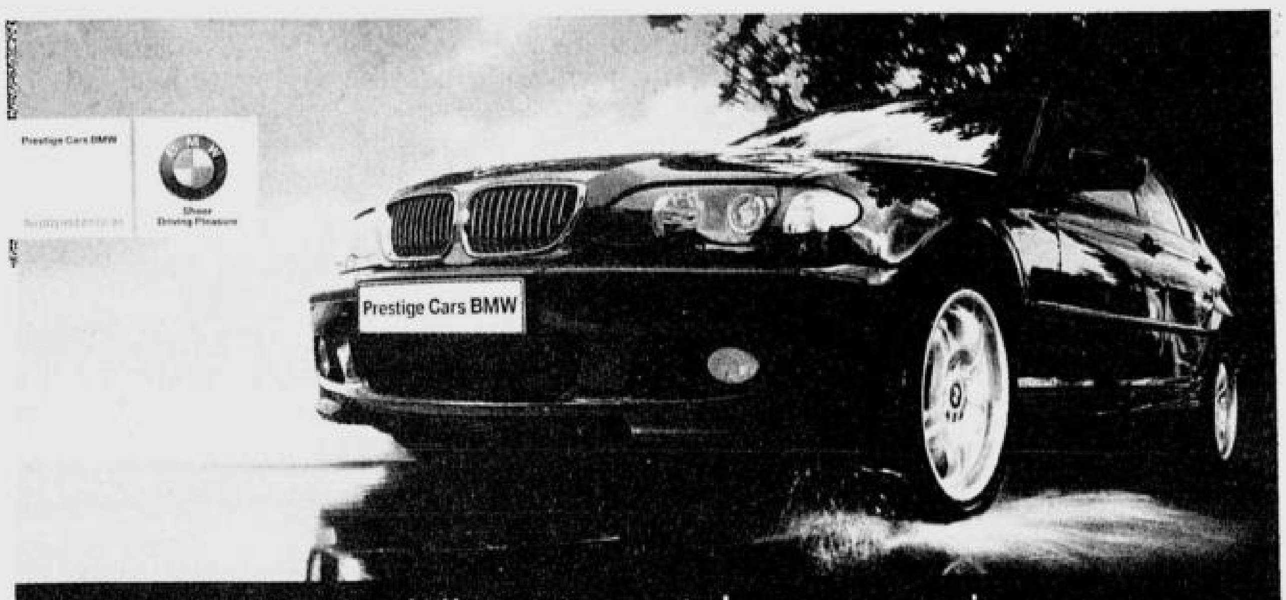
INSULAR LIFE

Investment Funds of Wealth Builder	UNIT PRICES (in Php) July 18, 2005	July 11, 2005
Fixed Income Fund	1.038171	1.033080
Balanced Fund	1.022903	1.012627
Equity Fund	0.987635	0.965202

These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.
The weekly unit prices are also available at www.insularlife.com.ph.



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30% Down, 36 Months 0 Interest

Model		Price
BMW 318i Exec. 2004 Oxford Green	Was Is	P2,550,000 P1,820,000
BMW 318i Exec. 2004 Sterling Grey	Was Is	P2,550,000 P2,200,000
BMW 318i Exec. 2004 Titanium Silver	Was Is	P2,550,000 P2,080,000
BMW 318i Exec. 2004 Orient Blue	Was Is	P2,550,000 P2,080,000
BMW 318i M Sport 2004 Titanium Silver	Was Is	P2,950,000 P2,180,000
SOLD BMW 318i M Sport 2005 Imola Red	Was Is	P2,950,000 P2,180,000
BMW 325i Exec. 2004 Imola Red	Was Is	P3,500,000 P2,865,000

30% Down, 24 Months 0 Interest

Model		Price
BMW 120i Exec. 2005 Quartz Blue	Was Is	P2,195,000 P2,085,250
BMW Z4 2.5i Roadster 2005 Topaz Blue	Was Is	P3,700,000 P3,400,000
BMW Z4 2.5i Roadster 2005 Sterling Grey	Was Is	P3,700,000 P3,400,000
BMW 520i Limo 2005 Mystic Blue	Was Is	P3,990,000 P3,790,000
BMW X3 2.5i SAV 2005 Mystic Blue	Was Is	P3,550,000 P3,373,000
SOLD BMW X5 3.0i Exec. 2004 Black Sapphire	Was Is	P5,492,000 P5,218,000
BMW X5 3.0i Exec. 2004 Titanium Silver	Was Is	P5,492,000 P5,218,000

50% Down, 24 Months 0 Interest

Model		Price
BMW 325i M Sport 2005 Topaz Blue	Was Is	P3,600,000 P2,665,000
BMW 325i M Sport 2005 Phoenix Yellow	Was Is	P3,600,000 P2,665,000
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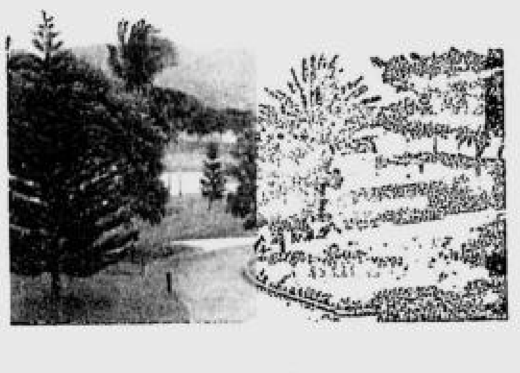

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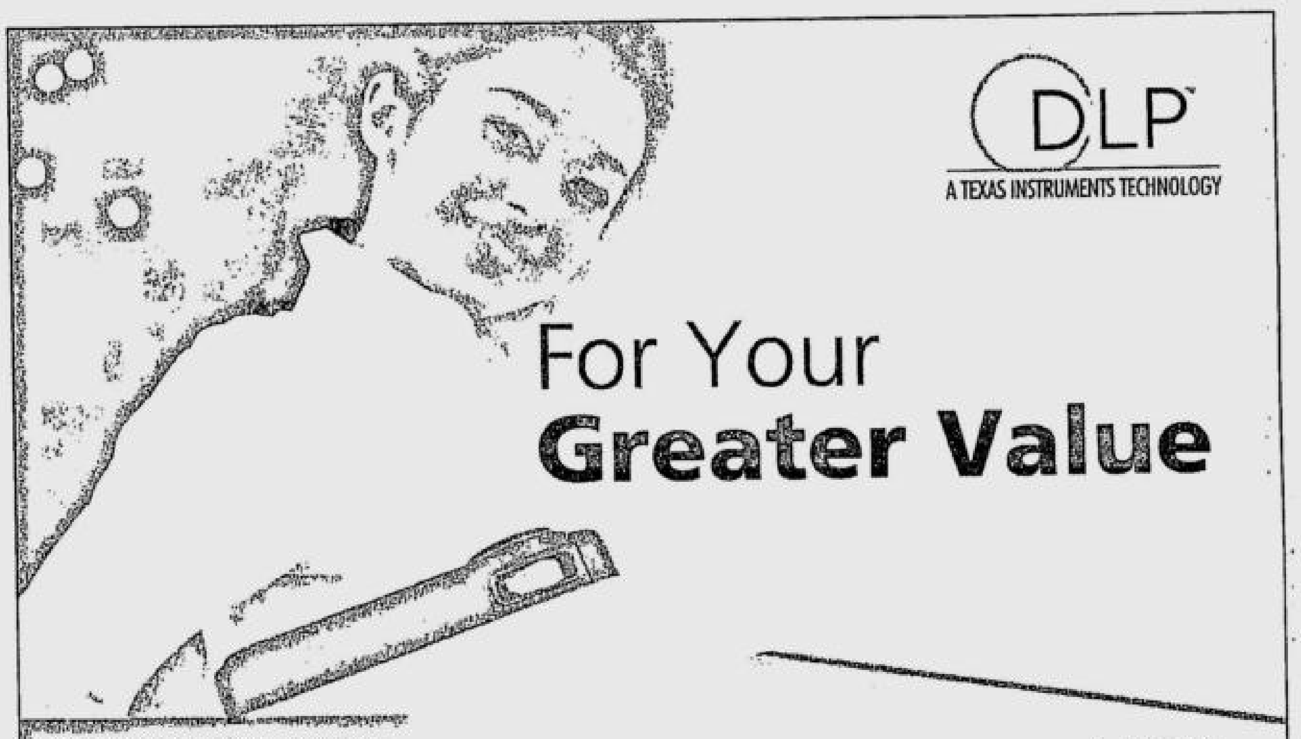

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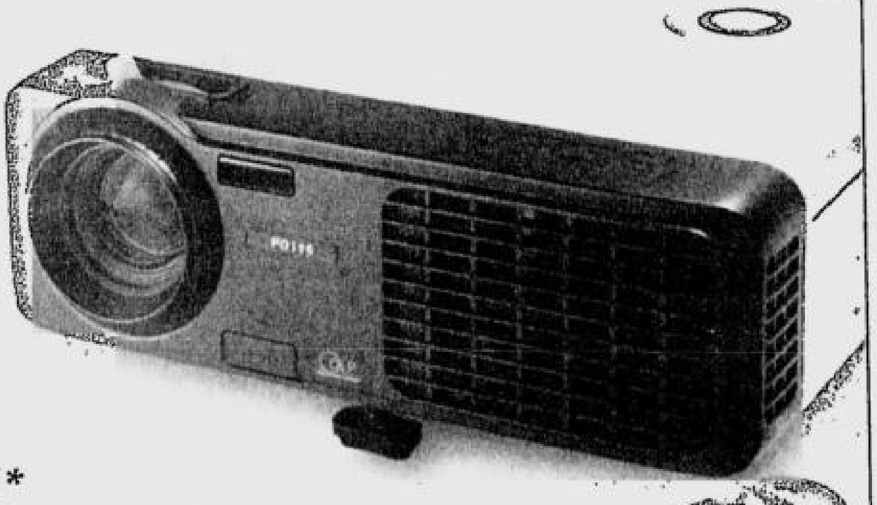

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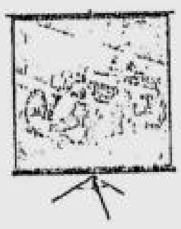

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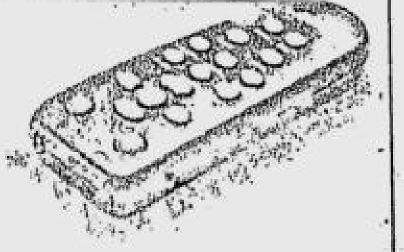

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Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE BOARDS OF ELECTION INSPECTORS ON THE CASTING AND COUNTING OF VOTES IN CONNECTION WITH THE AUGUST 8, 2005 ELECTIONS IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO.
x-------------------------------------x

PRESENT:

ABALOS, Benjamin S.	Chairman
JAVIER, Rufino S.B.	Commissioner
SADAIN, Mehol K.	Commissioner
BORRA, Resurreccion Z.	Commissioner
TUASON, Florentino, Jr., A.	Commissioner

Promulgated: 20 July 2005

RESOLUTION NO. 7538

The Commission on Elections, pursuant to the powers vested in it by the Constitution, the Omnibus Election Code, Republic Act No. 9333, and other election laws, RESOLVED to promulgate, as it hereby RESOLVES to promulgate, the following General Instructions for the Boards of Election Inspectors on the Casting and Counting of Votes in Connection With the August 8, 2005 Elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao:

Article I
Special Action Officer/District Team Leader

Section 1. Special Action Officer. – The Commission, thru the Commissioner-In-Charge of a province, shall name, appoint and designate a Special Action Officer to each city or municipality in the ARMM region, if circumstances so warrant, who is preferably an Election Officer assigned outside of the ARMM.

The Special Action Officer shall coordinate with, and assist the Election Officer in the conduct of elections; provided, that in all issues, concerns or matters arising from or connected with the interpretation or implementation of these rules and policies of the Commission, the decision of the Special Action Officer shall prevail. The Special Action Officer shall perform the following specific functions;

A. Joint responsibility with the Election Officer
1. Supervise the verification of ballots, election returns, election supplies and paraphernalia in the office of the city/municipal treasurer;
2. Conduct briefing of all members of the boards of election inspectors, deputized agencies and citizens' arm on their respective powers, functions and duties;
3. Supervise the counting of votes in the designated counting center;
4. Receive the copies of the election returns intended for the dominant majority party, dominant minority party or citizens' arm when the authorized representatives are not available in the counting center; and
5. Exercise supervision over all deputized agencies of the Commission within their jurisdiction;

B. Sole responsibility as Special Action Officer
1. Appoint substitutes for disqualified chairmen and members of the board of election inspectors from the list submitted by the Department of Education (DepED);
2. Distribute under proper receipt the election returns, tally board and other election forms and supplies related to counting to the board of election inspectors at the designated counting center;
3. Submit to the Provincial Board of Canvassers a list of election returns distributed to the different boards of election inspectors with their corresponding serial numbers and precinct assignments;
4. Submit to the District Team Leader designated by the Commissioner-In-Charge of the Province, his evaluation report, if any, of all requests for clustering of voting centers and suspension, postponement or declaration of failure of elections, in consultation with the Election Officer concerned, regional or local unit of the Armed Forces of the Philippines or Philippines National Police, Department of Education and representatives of all candidates/political parties;
5. Submit his recommendation to the District Team Leader for the relief or substitution of any member of the board of election inspectors or deputized agency of the Commission in case the latter engages in partisan political activities;
6 Make himself available for appointment as Chairman of any sub-canvassing committee of the Provincial Board of Canvassers;
7. Administer the oath of the board of election inspectors; and
8. Perform such other functions as may be directed by the Commissioner-In- Charge.

Sec. 2. District Team Leaders. – The Commission shall designated, thru the Commissioner-In-Charge of a province, not more than three (3) Regional Election Directors and/or Assistant Regional Election Directors of other regions, to act as District Team Leaders for a province in the ARMM, to perform the following functions:

a. To see to it that the aforesaid election rules are effectively enforced and implemented by the Election Officers, Special Action Officers and other deputies of the Commission, particularly those pertaining to casting, counting and canvassing of votes;
b. To oversee the Election Officers, Special Action Officers and other deputies of the Commission in the performance of their respective duties and functions delineated under these rules and other resolutions promulgated by the Commissions;
c. To act as Chairman of the Provincial Board of Canvassers whenever directed by the Commissioner-In-Charge;
d. To submit recommendation to the Commissioner-In-Charge, on the basis of the evaluation report of the Special Action Officer, on all requests for clustering of voting centers, suspension, postponement or declaration of failure of elections and relief of BEI member; and
e. To perform such other functions and powers as may be delegated, instructed or entrusted by the Commissioner-In-Charge to ensure the holding of free, honest, orderly and credible ARMM elections.

Article II
Board of Election Inspectors

Sec. 3. Board of election inspectors; constitution and appointment. – The Commission on Elections, through its Election Officer, shall constitute a board of election inspectors for each precinct or clustered precinct from the list of teachers recommended by the DepEd for appointment. Said list shall be turned-over by the Election Officer to the Special Action Officer assigned to his city/municipality.

The board of election inspectors shall be composed of a chairman and two members, all of whom shall be public school teachers, giving preference to those with permanent appointment. One of the members shall be designated as poll clerk.

In case there are not enough public school teachers, teachers in private schools, employees in the civil service, or citizens of known probity and competence who are registered voters of the city or municipality may be appointed for election duty: Provided, That the chairman shall be a public school teacher.

Sec. 4. Qualifications of members of the board of election inspectors. – No person shall be appointed as chairman or member of the board of election inspectors, whether regular, substitute or temporary, unless he:

a) Is of good moral character and irreproachable reputation;
b) Is a registered voter of the city or municipality;
c) Has never been convicted of any election offense or of any other crime punishable by more than six (6) months of imprisonment, or has no pending case filed against him for any election offense; and
d) Is able to speak and write English or the local dialect.

Sec. 5. Disqualification. – No person shall serve as chairman or member of the board of election inspectors if he or his spouse is related within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity to any member of the same board or to any candidate to be voted for or his spouse. Violation of this provision shall constitute an election offense.

Sec. 6. Notice of disqualification. – Any chairman or member of the board of election inspectors who is disqualified for any reason, shall notify the Special Action Officer appointed by the Commission to the Election Officer concerned of such fact in writing, who shall, in turn, immediately appoint his substitute based on the list of teachers recommended by the Department of Education (DepEd) for appointment.

Sec. 7. Temporary vacancies in the board of election inspectors. – If, at the time of the meeting of the board of election inspectors, any member is absent or a vacancy exists, the members present shall call upon the substitute from the roll of substitutes listed by the DepEd, to perform the duties of the latter. If none is available, the members present shall appoint any non-partisan registered voter of the precinct not otherwise disqualified, to temporarily fill said vacancy until the absent member appears or the vacancy is filled. In case there are two members present, they shall act jointly.

Sec. 8. Arrest of absent members. – The member or members of the board of election inspectors present may order the arrest of any member who, in his or their judgment, has absented himself with the intention of obstructing the performance of the duties of the board.

Sec. 9. Appointment and oath of members of the board of election inspectors. – The Election Officer shall accomplish the Appointment of the Chairman and Members of the Board of Election Inspectors (CEF No. 5) in three (3) copies, and require the chairman and members of the board to affix their signatures and imprints of their right thumbs on the Oath of Office (CEF No. 5A).

Before assuming office, the chairman and members of the board of election inspectors shall take an oath before the Special Action Officer, sign the oath and affix the imprints of their right thumbs on the space provided for the purpose.

Copies of the Appointment and Oath (CEF No. 5 & 5A) shall be distributed, as follows:

a) First copy, to be retained by the Election Officer;
b) Second copy, to be issued to the chairman and members of the board of election inspectors; and
c) Third copy, to be attached to the payroll for payment of honorarium of the board of election inspectors.

Sec. 10. Powers and functions of the board of election inspectors. – The board of election inspectors shall have the following powers and functions:

a) Conduct the voting in its polling place, and the counting of votes in the place designated by the Commission;
b) Act as deputies of the Commission in the supervision and control of the election in the polling place where it is assigned;
c) Maintain order within the polling place and its premises; keep access thereto open and unobstructed; and enforce obedience to its lawful order. If any person refuses to obey the lawful orders of the board of election inspectors or conducts himself in a disorderly manner in the presence or within its hearing and thereby interrupts or disturbs its proceedings, the board of election inspectors may issue an order in writing directing any peace officer to take said persons into custody until the adjournment of the meeting, but such order shall not be executed as to prevent said person from voting. A copy of such written order shall be attached to the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes; and
d) Perform such other functions prescribed by the law or by the rules and regulations promulgated by the Commission.

Sec. 11. Proceedings of the board of election inspectors. – The meeting of the board of election inspectors shall be public and held in the polling place designated by the Commission.

The board of election inspectors shall act through its chairman and shall decide by majority vote, without delay, all questions, which may arise in the performance of its duties.

Sec. 12. Minutes of voting and counting of votes. – The board of election inspectors shall enter in the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes (CEF No. 11) the act or data therein required as they occur or become available during voting and counting of votes. Copies thereof shall be sealed in separate envelopes, to be distributed as follows:

a) First copy, to the Special Action Officer duly appointed by the Commission Officer who shall transmit it to the Election Records and Statistics Department in Manila; and
b) Second copy, to be deposited inside the compartment of the ballot box for valid ballots.

Sec. 13. Voting privilege of the members of board of election inspectors. – Members of the board of election inspectors and their substitutes may vote in the polling places where they are assigned on election day provided that:

a) They are registered voters of the same legislative district where they are assigned; and
b) Their voting in the polling place where they are not registered should be noted in the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes.

Sec. 14. Prohibition against political activity. – No member of the board of election inspectors shall engage in any partisan political activity or take part in the election except to discharge his duties as such and to vote.

Sec. 15. Honoraria of the board of election inspectors. – The Chairman and members of the board of election inspectors shall each receive honorarium of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) for each day of service, but not to exceed Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00). Provincial, City and Municipal Treasurers, and DepEd supervisory officials, deputized by the Commission to perform election duties shall be paid honorarium of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) for each day of service, but not to exceed Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00). Support personnel from the DepEd who may be required by the Commission to perform election duties shall each be entitled to honorarium of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00). There shall be one DepEd supervisory official with one (1) support personnel for every ten (10) precincts as clustered.

Article II
Watchers

Sec. 16. Official watchers of candidates, political parties and other groups. – Each candidate and registered political party or coalition of political parties duly registered with the Commission and fielding candidates in the election may appoint two watchers, to serve alternately, in every polling place. However, candidates to the Regional Assembly, belonging to the same ticket or slate shall collectively be entitled to one watcher.

Duly accredited citizens arms of the Commission shall be entitled to appoint a watcher in every polling place. Other civil, religious, professional, business, service, youth, and any other similar organizations, with prior authority of the Commission, shall be entitled collectively to appoint one watcher in every polling place.

If, because of limited space, all watchers cannot be accommodated in the polling place, preference shall be given to the watchers of the dominant majority and dominant minority parties as determined by the Commission and the watcher of the citizens arm, with the latter being given preferential position closest to the board of election inspectors.

Sec. 17. Qualifications of watchers. – No person shall be appointed watcher unless he:

a) Is a registered voter of the city or municipality comprising the precinct where he is assigned;
b) Is of good reputation;
c) Has not been convicted by final judgment of any election offense or of any other crime;
d) Knows how to read and write Pilipino, English or any of the prevailing local dialect; and
e) Is not related within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity to the chairman or to any other member of the board of election inspectors in the polling place where he seeks appointment as watcher.

Sec. 18. Rights and duties of watchers. – Upon entering the polling place, the watchers shall deliver to the chairman of the board of election inspectors their appointments as watchers, and their names shall forthwith be recorded in the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes with a notation under their signatures that they are not disqualified to serve as such under the immediately preceding Section. The appointments of the watchers shall bear the signature of the candidate or duly authorized representative of the party, organization or coalition that appointed them. For this purpose, at least fifteen (15) days before election day, independent candidates, registered parties, organizations or coalitions authorized by the Commission to appoint watchers shall provide the Election Officers concerned with the names and signatures of their representatives authorized to appoint watchers in the city or municipality.

The watchers shall have the right to:

a) Witness and inform themselves of the proceedings of the board of election inspectors;
b) Take note of what they may see or hear;
c) Take photographs of the proceedings and incidents, if any, during the counting of votes, as well as of the election returns, tally board and ballot boxes;
d) File a protest against any irregularity or violation of law which they believe may have been committed by the board of election inspectors or by any of its members or by any person;
e) Obtain from the board of election inspectors a certificate as to the filing of such protest and the resolution thereof;
f) Read the ballot after it shall have been read by the chairman, as well as the election returns after it shall have been completed and signed by the members of the board of election inspectors, without touching said election documents; and
g) Be furnished, upon request, with a certificate of votes cast for the candidates, duly signed and thumbmarked by the chairman and all members of the board of election inspectors.

Watchers shall not speak to any member of the board of election inspectors, or to any voter or among themselves, in such a manner as would disturb the proceedings of the board.

The watchers representing the dominant majority and dominant minority parties fielding candidates shall, if available, affix their signatures and thumbmarks in the Election Returns.

Article IV
Election Forms and Supplies

Sec. 19. Election forms, documents and supplies. – Except when authorized to do so earlier by the Commission, the board of election inspectors shall get the forms, documents and supplies early in the morning of election day except forms to be used in the counting of votes. With the assistance of the Election Officer, the City/Municipal Treasurer and the Special Action Officer shall allocate and distribute the following forms, documents and supplies per precinct/clustered precinct.

A. FROM CITY/MUNICIPAL TREASURER

CEF No.	Forms and Supplies	Rate of Distribution
3	Poster Indicating Precinct Number and Location of Polling Place	1 piece
4	Certified List of Candidates for Regional Governor, Regional Vice-Governor and Regional Legislative Assemblyman	12 copies
6	Official Ballots	1 ballot per registered voter plus 3 ballots for every precinct or clustered precinct
11	Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes	1 set of 2 copies
12	Paper Seal	7 pieces
14	Certificate of Receipt of Official Ballots, Other Forms and Supplies	3 pieces
ENVELOPES FOR:		
15, 15-A, 16-A to 16-D, 28	Counted Official Ballots, Excess, Marked, Spoiled, Half of Torn Unused Official Ballots, Other Half of Torn Unused Official Ballots, and Official Ballots	7 pieces
18 and 18-A	Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes	2 pieces
19, 19-A and 19-B	Keys to Ballot Box	3 pieces
OTHER FORMS		
30	Temporary Appointment of Chairman, Poll Clerk, Members	10 pieces
35	Certificate of Challenge or Protest and Decision of the Board	10 pieces
39	Oath of Voter Challenged for Illegal Acts	10 pieces
40	Oath of Identification of Challenged Voter	10 pieces
41	Summons re. Challenged Voter	10 pieces
	General Instructions for BEI on Election Day	3 copies
SUPPLIES		
	Ballot Secrecy Folder	12 pieces
	Rubber Band	6 pieces
	Ballpoint pen	12 pieces
	Thumbprint Taker	2 pieces
	Bond paper	30 sheets
	Padlocks with Keys	3 pieces
	Indelible Stain Ink	2 bottles
	Ballot Box	1 piece
	Carbon Paper	5 sheet
	Fixed Length Seal	3 pieces

B. FROM THE ELECTION OFFICER

1. Book of Voters;
2. Two (2) copies of PCVL (List of Voters);
3. One (1) copy of EDCVL (List of Voters with Voting Record);
4. Nine (9) copies of Appointment and Oath of Office of BEI (CEF No. 5 & 5 A); and
5. Election Watcher's ID at ten (10) pieces per precinct/clustered precinct.

The Book of Voters should be duly sealed. The PCVL and EDCVL should all be duly certified by the Election Registration Board.

The chairman of the board of election inspectors shall have custody of the Book of Voters and one (1) copy of the PCVL.

The poll clerk shall have custody of the EDCVL.

The board of election inspectors shall carefully check the different election forms, documents and supplies and the quantity actually received, and deposit them in the ballot box, which shall thereafter be locked with three (3) padlocks. Each member of the board of election inspectors shall keep in his custody one (1) key corresponding to one of the padlocks. The board of election inspectors shall sign a Certificate of Receipt (CE Form No. 14), in three (3) copies, the original copy of which shall be delivered to the city/municipal treasurer, the second copy to be retained by the board of election inspectors, and the third copy to the Election Officer, who shall transmit said receipt to the Records and Statistics Division, ERSD, Comelec, Manila, immediately after election day.

B. FROM THE SPECIAL ACTION OFFICER OR ANY DULY AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL OF THE COMMISSION, IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE COUNTING OF VOTES.

CEF No.	Forms and Supplies	Rate of Distribution
9	Election Returns	1 set of 7 copies
10	Tally Board	1 set
12	Paper Seal	18 pieces
13	Certificate of Votes Received by Candidates to be issued by BEI	20 copies
27, 27-A To 27-F	Official Receipt of Election Returns	10 pieces
17, 17-B to 17-G	Envelope for Election Returns	1 set 7 pieces
SUPPLIES		
	Fixed Length Seal	2 pieces

Sec. 20. Official ballots. – The official ballot shall:

a) Be uniform in size, printed in black ink on white security paper with distinctive, clear and legible water marks that will readily distinguish it from ordinary paper;
b) Be with stubs and detachable coupons containing the serial number of the ballot with space for the thumbmark of the voter on the detachable coupon;
c) Bear at the top of the middle portion thereof, the coat-of-arms

(Continued on Page 7)

of the Republic of the Philippines, the words "Official Ballot", the name of the city or the municipality and province in which the election is to be held, the date of the election and the following notice in English: "Fill out this ballot secretly using a ballot secrecy folder. Do not put any distinctive mark on any part of this ballot.";

d) Contain the names of all the offices to be voted for in the election allowing sufficient space or spaces with horizontal line where the voter may write the name or names of the individual candidates voted for by him. In cities or municipalities where Arabic is of general use, the title of the offices to be voted for shall be printed in Arabic in addition to the English title; and

e) Not have anything printed or written on the back thereof except as provided in Sec. 27 hereof.

Sec. 21. Forms to be reproduced when needed. – Samples of the following forms are attached hereto to guide the board of election inspectors in the reproduction thereof when the need arises:

a) Temporary Appointment of Chairman/Poll Clerk/Member (Annex "A");
b) Certificate of Challenge or Protest and Decision of the Board (Annex "B");
c) Oath of Voter Challenged for Illegal Acts (Annex "C");
d) Oath of Identification of Challenged Voter (Annex "D"); and
e) Summons Re: Challenged Voter (Annex "E")

Article V
Voting

Sec. 22. Date of election. – The election shall be held on August 8, 2005.

Sec. 23. Who may vote. – All current registered voters in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao whose registration records have not been cancelled, may vote in the election.

Those whose names are not included in the EDCVL or whose Voter Registration Records are not in the Book of Voters will NOT be allowed to vote.

Sec. 24. Voting hours. – The casting of votes shall start promptly at seven o'clock in the morning and shall end at three o'clock in the afternoon of election day.

If at three o'clock there are still voters within thirty meters in front of the polling place who have not yet cast their votes, the voting shall continue but only to allow said voters to cast their votes without interruption. The poll clerk shall, without delay, prepare a complete list containing the names of said voters consecutively numbered. The voters listed shall be called to vote by the poll clerk by announcing each name three (3) times in the order in which they are listed. Any voter in the list who is not present when called shall not be permitted to vote at any later time. The said list shall be submitted to the Election Officer.

Sec. 25. Place of voting. – The voters shall cast their votes in the polling place designated by the Commission for the precinct. The Poster Indicating the Precinct Number and Location of Polling Place (CEF No. 3) shall be prominently posted near or at the door of the polling place.

Sec. 26. Rules to be observed during the voting. – During the voting, the board of election inspectors shall see to it that:

a) No watcher enters the place reserved for the voters and the board of election inspectors, or mingles and talks with the voters;
b) No voter prepares his ballot without using a ballot secrecy folder, or exhibits the contents of the ballot to any person;
c) No ballot is brought outside the polling place;
d) No person carrying any firearm or any other deadly weapon, except those expressly authorized by the Commission, enters the polling place;
e) The voters shall vote in the order of their arrival in the polling place;
f) There is no crowding of voters and disorderly behavior inside the poling place; and
g) The interior cover of the ballot box remains locked during voting.

Sec. 27. Persons allowed in and around the polling place. – Only the following persons shall be allowed inside the polling place:

a) Members of the board of election inspectors;
b) Watchers who shall stay only in the space reserved for them;
c) Representatives of the Commission;
d) Voters casting their votes;
e) Voters waiting for their turn to vote;
f) Voters waiting for their turn to get their ballots; and
g) Other persons who may be specifically authorized by the Commission.

Unless specifically authorized by the Commission, it is unlawful for any officer or member of the Armed Forces of the Philippines or the Philippine National Police or any peace officer or armed person belonging to any extra-legal police agency, special forces, reaction forces, strike forces, Civilian Armed Force Geographical Units, barangay tanods, or other similar forces or para-military forces, including special forces, security guards, special policemen, and all other kinds of armed or unarmed extra-legal police forces, to enter any polling place or stay within a radius of fifty (50) meters thereof, except to vote.

However, the board of election inspectors, by majority vote, if it deems necessary, may order in writing the detail of a policeman or any peace officer for its protection or for the protection of the election documents and paraphernalia. Such order shall be entered in the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes. Said policeman or peace officer shall stay outside the polling place within a radius of thirty (30) meters near enough to be easily called by the board of election inspectors at anytime, but never at the door, and in no case shall the said policeman or peace officer hold any conversation with any voter or disturb or prevent or in any manner obstruct the free access of the voters to the polling place.

No barangay official shall enter any polling place except to vote; in which case, he shall immediately leave the polling place after voting.

Sec. 28. Preliminaries to the voting. – The board of election inspectors shall meet at the polling place at six o'clock in the morning of election day and do the following:

a) See to it that it has all the election forms, documents and supplies needed;
b) Post one copy of PCVL near or at the door of the polling place; and
c) Staple or paste the certified list of candidates on the ballot secrecy folders.

Before the voting begins, the chairman of the board of election inspectors shall:

a) Open the ballot box, empty both of its compartments, exhibit them to all those present and, being empty, lock its interior cover with three (3) padlocks. The members of the board of election inspectors shall each retain their respective keys to the padlocks during the voting;
b) Show to the public and to the watchers present, the package of official ballots and the book of voters, both duly sealed, and thereafter, break the seals; and
c) Enter in the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes: 1) the number of pads of ballots; 2) the serial numbers of the ballots in each pad; and 3) the fact that the package of ballots and the book of voters were shown to the public with the seals intact.

Sec. 29. Manner of obtaining ballots. – The voter shall approach the chairman, give his name, address, together with the other data concerning his person, and present any authentic document that may establish his identity.

The chairman shall verify whether or not: 1) the name of the voter is included in the EDCVL; or 2) the voter's Voter Registration Record is contained in the Book of Voters of the precinct. If the voter's name is in the EDCVL or if his Voter Registration Record is included in the Book of Voters, the chairman shall examine the identification document presented by the voter, to determine whether the voter is the same person presenting to vote.

If the voter fails to present any authentic document to establish his identity, he may be identified under oath by any member of the board of election inspectors and such identification shall be reflected in the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes.

In all cases, the voter shall be required to affix his signature on a separate sheet of paper; after which, the chairman shall then compare the signature with that appearing in the Voter's Registration Record. In case the registration record of the voter is not available, the chairman shall compare the signature with that appearing in the identification document presented by the voter.

If the board of election inspectors is satisfied with the voter's identity, the chairman shall announce the voter's name in a tone loud enough to be plainly heard throughout the polling place. If the voter is not challenged, or having been challenged, the question has been decided in his favor, the voter shall be given a ballot.

Only the chairman shall issue the official ballots, and not more than one ballot shall be issued at one time.

Before giving the ballot to the voter, the chairman shall:

a) Apply indelible ink at the base, and extending to the cuticle, of the right forefinger nail of the voter, or any other finger nail if there be no right forefinger;

   A voter, who for any reason, refuses to be stained with the indelible ink, or whose finger already shows stain of indelible ink, shall not be given a ballot. Such fact shall be entered in the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes.

b) Announce the serial number of the ballot and enter the same in the corresponding space opposite the name of the voter in the EDCVL;

c) Authenticate the ballot by affixing his signature at the back thereof. Failure to authenticate shall be noted in the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes.

   The failure to affix signature at the back of the ballot shall not invalidate the ballot but shall constitute an election offense; and

d) Fold the ballot in such a manner that its face is covered, except the portion where the serial number appears, and give the same to the voter.

Sec. 30. Manner of voting. – Upon receipt of the ballot, the voter shall forthwith affix his signature in the proper space opposite his name in the EDCVL.

Using a ballot secrecy folder, he shall fill his ballot by writing the names of the individual candidates of his choice.

It shall be unlawful to use carbon paper, paraffin paper or other means for making a copy of the contents of the ballot or make use of any means to identify the voter or his vote.

Sec. 31. Procedure after voter has filled up the ballot. – a) After the voter has filled his ballot, he shall fold it in the same manner as when he received it;

b) In the presence of all the members of the board of election inspectors, he shall affix his thumbmark in the corresponding space in the detachable coupon of the ballot, and return the folded ballot to the chairman;

c) The chairman in the presence of the voter and all the members of the board of election inspectors shall, without unfolding the ballot or seeing its contents, verify its serial number as against the serial number previously entered in the EDCVL, to determine whether it is the same ballot previously given to the voter.

Any ballot returned to the chairman, the serial number of which does not tally with the serial number entered in the EDCVL, shall be considered "SPOILED". The voter shall be given another ballot so as not to disenfranchise him, without prejudice, however, to the filing of appropriate charges against the voter. For this purpose, the board of election inspectors shall submit to the Election Officer the names of such voters;

d) The voter shall forthwith affix his thumbmark in the corresponding space opposite his name in the EDCVL;

e) The chairman shall detach the coupon in the presence of the voter and the other members of the board of election inspectors, and shall deposit the detached coupon in the compartment for spoiled ballots.

Any ballot returned to the chairman, the detachable coupon of which has been removed not in the presence of the members of the board of election inspectors, shall be considered "SPOILED". The voter shall be given another ballot so as not to disenfranchise him, without prejudice, however, to the filing of appropriate charges against the voter. For this purpose, the board of election inspectors shall submit to the Election Officer the names of such voters;

f) The chairman shall then deposit the ballot inside the compartment for valid ballots in the presence of the voter and other members of the board of election inspectors;

g) If it should become necessary to make room for more ballots, the chairman may, in the presence of the members and watchers, open the ballot box and press down with his hands the ballots contained therein without removing any of them, after which the board of election inspectors shall again close the interior cover of the ballot box and lock it with padlocks as herein provided; and

h) The voter shall then leave the polling place.

Sec. 32. Preparation of ballots for illiterate and disabled voters. – a) A voter who is illiterate or physically unable to prepare the ballot by himself may be assisted in the preparation of his ballot by a relative within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity, or, if he has none, by any person of his confidence who belongs to the same household, or by any member of the board of election inspectors;

b) No person may assist an illiterate or disabled voter more than three (3) times except the members of the board of election inspectors;
c) In all cases, the poll clerk shall first verify from the illiterate or disabled voter whether the latter had authorized the assistor to prepare the ballot for him;
d) The assistor shall, in the presence of the illiterate or disabled voter, prepare the ballot using a ballot secrecy folder; and
e) The assistor shall bind himself in writing, and under oath to fill the ballot strictly in accordance with the instructions of the voter and not to reveal the contents of the ballot, by affixing his signature in the appropriate space in the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes.

Sec. 33. Accessibility of polling place to disabled voters. – The Election Officers, in coordination with the proper school or building officials, shall see to it that the designated polling places of precincts where there are disabled registered voters are located in the ground floors of the polling centers so that the disabled voters can have easy access thereto.

Sec. 34. Spoiled ballots. – A ballot is considered spoiled in the following instances:

a) When the voter accidentally defaces the ballot in such a way that it can no longer be lawfully used;
b) When the detachable coupon of the ballot was detached not in the presence of the Board; and
c) When the serial number of the ballot returned by the voter is different from the serial number of the ballot earlier given to the said voter.

In all cases, the voter shall surrender the ballot folded to the chairman who shall note in the corresponding space in the EDCVL that said ballot is spoiled. The chairman shall enter the serial number of the spoiled ballot in the space provided for in the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes. The spoiled ballot shall be so marked at the back thereof with the word "SPOILED" and signed by the chairman of the board of election inspectors, and placed inside the compartment for spoiled ballots. The voter shall then be given another ballot duly authenticated by the chairman after announcing its serial number and recording said serial number in the corresponding space in the EDCVL.

If the second ballot is again spoiled, it shall be surrendered correctly folded to the chairman who shall follow the same procedure for spoiled ballots.

No voter shall change his ballot more than once.

Sec. 35. Challenge against illegal voters. – Any voter or watcher may challenge any person offering to vote for:

a) Not being registered;
b) Using the name of another; or
c) Suffering from an existing disqualification.

In such case, the board of election inspectors shall satisfy itself as to whether or not the ground for the challenge is true by requiring proof of registration, identity or qualification or by referring to the watchlist provided the EOs. However, the absence of any identification document shall not preclude the voter from voting if his identity can be established from the photograph, fingerprint, or specimen signatures in his Voter Registration Record or if a member of the board of election inspectors identifies him under oath. Such identification shall be reflected in the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes.

Sec. 36. Challenge based on certain illegal acts. – Any voter or watcher may challenge any voter offering to vote on the ground that the challenged person has:

a) Received or expects to receive, paid, offered or promised to pay, contributed, offered or promised to contribute money or anything of value as consideration for his vote or for the vote of another; or
b) Made or received a promise to influence the giving or withholding of any such vote; or
c) Made a bet or is interested directly or indirectly in a bet that depends upon the results of the election.

The challenged person shall take an oath before the board of election inspectors that he has not committed any of the acts alleged in the challenge. Upon taking such oath, the challenge shall be dismissed and the voter shall be allowed to vote. In case the voter refuses to take such oath, the challenge shall be sustained and the voter shall not be allowed to vote.

Sec. 37. Record of challenges and oaths. – The poll clerk shall record in the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes all challenges and oaths taken in connection therewith and the decision of the board of election inspectors in each case.

Sec. 38. Disposition of unused ballots. – The chairman shall record in the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes the quantity and serial numbers of unused ballots. Thereafter, he shall, in the presence of the members of the board of election inspectors and watchers, tear the unused ballots in half lengthwise without removing the stubs and detachable coupons. One half shall be placed in the envelope for the purpose, and submitted to the Election Officer, while the other half shall be placed in another envelope for the purpose, and then deposited inside the compartment of the ballot box for valid ballots. Such facts shall be entered in the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes.

Sec. 39. Prohibition against premature announcement of voting. – During the voting, no member of the board of election inspectors shall make any announcement as to whether a certain registered voter has already voted or not, as to how many have already voted or how many so far have failed to vote or any other fact tending to show or showing the state of the polls; nor shall he make any statement at any time, except as witness before a court or body as to how many persons voted.

Article VI
Counting of Votes

Sec. 40. Venue for counting; designation of counting centers. – The votes shall be counted at the counting centers designated by the Commission.

In designating the counting center, the security of the site, accessibility and size of the area, among other things, shall be considered.

Sec. 41. Transport of boards of election inspectors & election paraphernalia. – After the termination of voting, the board of election inspectors shall place inside the ballot box all the election documents and paraphernalia, except the book of voters, indelible ink, thumbprint takers and other materials which might stain or mark the ballots therein, lock it with three (3) padlocks and two (2) self-locking serially numbered fixed-length seals, one for the inner compartments and one for the outer cover of the ballot box. Each member of the board of election inspectors shall keep a key to a padlock.

The boards of election inspectors, together with the ballot boxes and the other election paraphernalia shall then be transported to the counting center where the votes shall be counted.

It shall be the joint responsibility of the District Team Leader and the Provincial Election Supervisor to coordinate with the DepEd, PNP/AFP, and DILG to ensure the safe transport of the boards of election inspectors and the election forms and paraphernalia to the counting center.

The candidates and political parties shall be notified of the transfer of the ballot boxes and shall have the right to accompany the boards of election inspectors when they transfer the ballot boxes from the polling places to the counting centers. The serial numbers of the ballot box and the self-locking serially numbered fixed-length seals, the time when the board of election inspectors left the polling place shall be recorded in the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes.

The District Team Leader and Provincial Election Supervisors, in coordination with the military and police authorities, shall ensure that the counting center is provided with adequate security.

Sec. 42. Counting of votes to be public and without interruption. – The board of election inspectors shall publicly count the votes cast and ascertain the results of the election in their respective precincts.

Unless otherwise ordered by the Commission, the boards of election inspectors shall not adjourn or postpone or delay the counting until it has been fully completed.

Sec. 43. Issuance of election returns. – The Special Action Officer or the duly authorized official of the Commission shall issue at the counting center the election returns and other forms and supplies related to the counting to the boards of election inspectors under proper receipt.

Sec. 44. Preliminaries to the counting of votes. – Upon arrival at the counting center, the board of election inspectors shall proceed to the designated area where the election returns and other forms and supplies related to the counting shall be issued to them. Before issuance of the election returns, the authorized representative of the Special Action Officer shall record the serial numbers of the ballot box and the self-locking serially numbered fixed-length seals, the time of arrival of the board of election inspectors at the counting center and the names of the persons accompanying the transfer of the ballot box.

Upon receipt of the election returns and other forms and supplies related to counting, the boards of election inspectors shall proceed to their assigned counting rooms/areas.

At the assigned counting rooms/areas, the board of election inspectors shall unlock the padlocks, break the self-locking serially numbered fixed-length seal, open the ballot box and take out the ballots from the compartment for valid ballots. The board of election inspectors shall then determine whether there are:

a) **Excess ballots.** The board of election inspectors shall count the ballots in the compartment for valid ballots without unfolding them or exposing their contents, except to ascertain that each ballot is single, and compare the number of ballots in the compartment with the number of voters who actually voted as recorded in the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes. If the number of valid ballots exceeds the number of voters who actually voted, all of the ballots shall be returned to the compartment and thoroughly mixed therein. The poll clerk, without seeing the ballots and with his back to the box, shall publicly draw out as many ballots as may be equal to the excess and, without unfolding them, place them in the envelope for excess/marked/spoiled/half of torn unused ballots.

   If, in the course of examination, ballots are found folded together before they were deposited in the box, they shall be placed in the envelope for excess/marked/spoiled/half of torn unused ballots.

   The envelope containing the excess ballots shall be signed by the members of the board of election inspectors, sealed and deposited in the compartment for valid ballots.

b) **Ballots with undetached coupons.** In case ballots with undetached coupons are found in the compartment, the coupons shall be removed and deposited in the compartment for spoiled ballots. The ballots shall be included in the pile of valid ballots.

c) **Ballots with the word "spoiled".** Should ballots with the word "spoiled" be found in the compartment for valid ballots, they shall be placed in the envelope for excess/marked/spoiled/half of torn unused ballots. The envelope shall be signed by the members of the board of election inspectors, sealed and deposited in the compartment for spoiled ballots.

d) **Marked ballots.** The board of election inspectors shall then unfold the ballots and determine whether there are any marked ballots. If any should be found, they shall be placed in the envelope for excess/marked/spoiled/ half of torn unused ballots. The envelope shall be signed by the members of the board of election inspectors, sealed and deposited in the compartment for valid ballots.

Excess, spoiled and marked ballots shall not be counted.

Sec. 45. Ballots deposited in the compartment for spoiled ballots. – The ballots deposited in the compartment for spoiled ballots shall be presumed "spoiled", whether or not they contain such notation; but if the board of election inspectors should find that during the voting any valid ballot was erroneously deposited in this compartment, or if any ballot separated as excess or marked had been erroneously deposited therein, the board of election inspectors shall open said compartment after the voting and before the counting of votes for the sole purpose of drawing out the ballots erroneously deposited therein. The valid ballots so withdrawn shall be mixed with the other valid ballots. The excess and marked ballots shall be placed inside their corresponding envelopes. Such fact shall be recorded in the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes.

Sec. 46. Manner of counting of votes. – The table shall be cleared of all unnecessary writing paraphernalia. The board of election inspectors shall unfold the ballots and form separate piles of one hundred (100) ballots each, held together by rubber bands. The chairman of the board of election inspectors shall take the ballots of the first pile one by one and read the names of the candidates voted for and the offices for which they were voted in the order in which they appear thereon.

During the counting, the chairman, the poll clerk and the third member shall position themselves in such a way as to give the watchers and the public an unimpeded view of the ballot being read by the chairman, as well as of the election returns and tally board being simultaneously accomplished by the poll clerk and the third member, respectively. Any violation hereof shall constitute an election offense

The watchers and the public shall not touch any of the said election documents.

The poll clerk and the third member shall record in the election returns and in the tally board, respectively, each vote as it is read. The vote for each candidate shall be recorded by a vertical line, except every fifth vote, which shall be recorded by a diagonal line crossing the previous four vertical lines.

After finishing the first pile of ballots, the board of election inspectors shall determine the sub-total of the number of votes for each candidate. The sub-total shall be recorded and encircled on the tally board and on the election returns. In case of discrepancy between the entries in the election returns and tally board, a recount shall be made. For this purpose, the ballots shall again be grouped together as before.

The same procedure shall be followed with the succeeding piles of ballots.

After all the ballots have been read, the board of election inspectors shall affix their initials after the last vote recorded or immediately after the name of the candidates who did not receive any vote. Thereafter, the board of election inspectors shall record, in words and in figures, the total number of votes obtained by each candidate both in the election returns and in the tally board. The counted ballots shall be placed in the envelope for the purpose. The envelope shall be closed, signed, sealed and deposited in the ballot box compartment for valid ballots. The tally board as accomplished and certified by the board of election inspectors shall not be changed or destroyed but shall be kept in the ballot box compartment for valid ballots.

Sec. 47. Rules for the appreciation of ballots. – In the reading and appreciation of ballots, every ballot shall be presumed to be valid unless there is clear and good reason to justify its rejection.

The board of election inspectors shall observe the following rules, bearing in mind that the object of the election is to obtain the expression of the voter's will:

a) Where only the first name of a candidate or only his surname is written, the vote for such candidate is valid, if there is no other candidate with the same first name or surname for the same office;

b) Where only the first name of a candidate is written on the ballot, which when read, has a sound similar to the surname of another candidate, the vote shall be counted in favor of the candidate with such surname. If there are two or more candidates with the same full name, first name or surname and

(Continued on Page 10)

Innove, ANC ink deal to use broadband technology

THE ABS-CBN News Channel (ANC) continues its forward thrust to explore new uses of existing technologies in its delivery of news information. The 24-hour news channel has signed a deal with Innove Communications, Globe Telecom's fixed line provider, for the use of its broadband Internet facilities for two of its latest programs: "ANC Money" and "My Favorite Show".

The partnership agreement reaffirms the support of Innove's Globelines Broadband to "ANC Money", the daily morning business news magazine program that first used the company's broadband Internet service to make live broadcast from the Ayala trading floor of the Philippine Stock Exchange. Globelines will continue to provide the program with its state-of-the-art equipment and technology until the end of the year.

"ANC Money", on the other hand, will explore ways of transmitting through broadband Internet content gathered through current broadcast facilities in the hopes of having live broadcast feeds that are comparable to the traditional satellite feed.

As the Philippines' first and only 24-hour news station, ANC positions itself as a leader and innovator in news and information delivery to Filipinos all over the world. With the support of partners such as Innove Communications, it can continue to push beyond the limits of existing broadcasting practices.

SHOWN at the contract signing are, from left, Popsie Eligir, ABS CBN News Channels sales executive; Lis Andanar, 'ANC Money' host; Antonio Mapa, Innove Communications marketing director for residential and business group; Peter Musngi, ABS-CBN News Channel head, Cathy Salceda-Ileto, Innove Communications head for external communications.

Nemenzo Ayala Plans' top BM

SUCCESSFUL individuals don't seem to be very different from most people. But HR professionals notice that "performers", though not always possessing very high intelligence, are usually the ones with "work smarts".

NEMENZO

One of these performers is Nelia F. Nemenzo, top business manager of the year of Ayala Plans Inc. Nemenzo officially joined Ayala Plans in September 1999, and right off the bat she proved she possessed outstanding qualities, being named number one sales counselor of her sales office (Bacolod) in her first year. She was promoted to regional sales manager (RSM) in June 2002 and quickly set two company records for her Bacolod office: the first time an individual brought in more than P1 million in Icbi (initial cash brought in); and the first time an RSM recruited more than 30 sales counselors (35, to be exact) in one month.

Gifted with an entrepreneurial personality, Nemenzo began her selling career in grade school where she would barter fruits from fruit-bearing trees in her family's backyard for crayons, pencils, paper, etc. In high school, she made brisk business selling Sanrio items, yema and various candy items to her classmates. She even became a licensed sales agent of a famous cosmetics company at the age of 13. When asked about the secrets to her success, Nemenzo offered her six personal "success factors" that anyone can apply to his or her career: leadership; working with the right people; hard work; prioritizing big clients; a positive attitude; and focus.

'Celebrate Life!' Expo at SM malls

IN ORDER to promote healthy and enjoyable lifestyle as a way of life, Friendly Alliances and Media Expressions Inc (FAME), publisher of Health & Lifestyle Magazine, is sponsoring the "Celebrate Life!" first-of-a-series exposition from Aug 22 to 28 at several SM branches in Metro Manila.

The upcoming exposition is one way of educating people on preventive healthcare, healthy lifestyle and effective self-care medications. It will be a gathering of companies which offer beauty, healthcare and fitness products and services.

Among the highlights of the event will be exhibits of healthcare products, equipment and services which focus on hygiene, fitness, healthy diet, child care, sexual health, cosmetic and perfume. Free demonstrations and samples will be given during the simultaneous exposition in several designated SM malls.

Shoppers will also be treated to other freebies. The organizers aim to make the event a learning and enjoyable experience both for the exhibitors and SM shoppers who will drop by the exposition. Participating SM branches are North Edsa, Fairview, Megamall and Southmall.

Booth spaces are still available. Interested parties can call 892-0723 to 24, 812-8696, 816-4801 and look for Chielyn Von Possel and Val Petines.

Bits Clips

EQ Diaper's discounts

IN RESPONSE to the increasing number of people clamoring for quality baby diapers at a much affordable price, EQ Diapers recently launched its downpour of savings by extending a P2 discount for mini packs for all sizes of EQ Basic, P5 discount for budget packs (medium and large size EQ Basic) and a discount of P15 for medium and large packs of EQ basic. The promo starts this July and these can be found in selected leading supermarkets and sari-sari stores in GMA and Luzon key areas.

Marketing during hard times

WANT to know how to maximize and stretch your marketing budget? Want to learn how to prepare a marketing plan that actually works, and is attuned to the changing demands of consumers during crisis situations? Want to know more about innovative and effective non-traditional forms of advertising? If you do, this seminar is for you. Join this seminar from August 2 to 4 (p.m. sessions only) at the Richmonde Hotel, as Grace F. Magno, an experienced marketing professional who has been in the field for almost 20 years, shares her knowledge in "Marketing During Crisis Situations." She boasts of preparing award-winning marketing plans and advertising campaigns in Asia. For inquiries, call 0918-9157973 and look for Lenlen; 0917-8197073 and look for Rose, or e-mail skillsoncall@yahoo.com.

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on August 3, 2005, 10:00 a.m., 6th Floor, OPS Conference Room of the DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue corner Makati Avenue, Makati City for the following on CASH BASIS.

Four (4) parcels of adjoining commercial lots situated at the corners of Session Road, Perfecto and Cerantes Streets, Baguio City having an aggregate area of 842 sq.m. more or less with the following particulars:

Title	Area
1. TCT No. T-21710	10 sq.m.
2. TCT No. T-21711	446 sq.m.
3. TCT No. T-21712	89 sq.m.
4. TCT No. T-21713	297 sq.m.

Minimum selling price is P109,460,000.00.

BIDDERS ARE REMINDED:

1. To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the bidding;
2. To submit in DBP's official bid form available at the Property and Security Management (PSM), Property Disposal Committee (Attention: AVP Seldo F. Ubungen), Ground Floor, DBP Head Office during office hours; and
3. To be on time. No bids will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commences.

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITIES THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers: 818-9511 loc. 3101 or 867-3247.

PSM PROPERTY DISPOSAL COMMITTEE

(PDI—July 22 & 23, 2005)

Philippines, Inc.
ISO 9001:2000 Quality Man ent System

TYCOON CENTRE CONDOMINIUM, FPDSAVILLS DEAL

FPDSavills recently sealed an agreement with the board of directors of Tycoon Centre Condominium (TCC). FPDSavills took over the property management of the Tycoon Centre. Shown during the contract signing are, from left, Pete Oliveros, operations manager of FPDSavills, engineer Emelito A. Adia, senior associate director of FPDSavills, Elizabeth G. Rabuy, director and general manager of FPDSavills, Alexander Guda, president of Tycoon Centre Condominium Corp, and Nikki B. Gilladoga, associate director of FPDSavills.

ProductFiles

Feet fresh as morning rain

fresh as the morning rain

DANCE in the rain with protected feet courtesy of Titania. Walking through wet streets may make your feet prone to problems such as athlete's foot and obnoxious odors. Titania offers a host of products designed to prevent such problems by keeping your feet germ-free and odor-free all the time. Best of all, your feet will also feel fresh and look good wherever you go. The foot care products that Titania offers make sure that your feet are well-protected from whatever the wet season will bring.

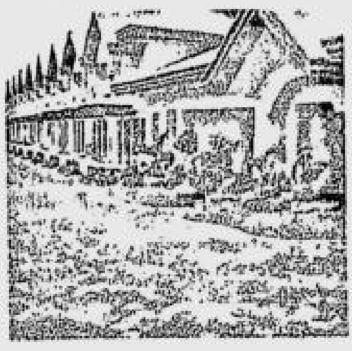
Titania is exclusively distributed by Filstar Distributors Corp, 2/F Reliance Center Building, E. Rodriguez Jr Avenue, Ugong, Pasig City with telephone numbers 671-0555 and 671-3171.

Charmee For All Types Of Flow

WITH so many types of feminine pads in the market, don't you find it difficult to find the right type of pad for you? Charmee For All Types Of Flow With Wings is the latest addition to the Charmee Feminine Protection Family. Keeping the Charmee thrust of quality protection, the new product with a length of 235 mm is longer than most regular pads in the market. Designed for better protection, it also has anti-leak control channels that allow even fluid distribution across the pad. It's soft and comfortable, leaving skin feeling soft and irritation-free. It has Charmee's unique wetness protection system that locks away fluid as gel in the pad for a fresh feeling all day.

Charmee For All Types of Flow With Wings comes in a yellow plastic pack of 8s. The pads are individually wrapped so you can conveniently carry these around or slip in your bag. Suggested retail price is at P18/pack, just P2.25 per pad. Imagine value protection at an all-day affordable price.

A different world with Vazpave



TRANSPORT yourself into a different world every time with Vazpave Concrete Paving Blocks. Walk on roads that are reminiscent of historic Vigan, the lively Baywalk or the classic cobbled streets on Intramuros with paving blocks that provide classy and rustic charm to pathways and roads. Manufactured with the highest quality standards, Vazpave will provide long-lasting beauty for many generations to walk on. Vazpave Fishscale design is the latest addition to its line. Vazpave Paving Blocks are manufactured by Vazquez Commodities Corp, a member of the Vazquez Group of Companies. The company is also highly recognized for spearheading its ingenuity in the construction and building industries, specifically being the pioneer in the prefab technology. For more information, call 412-8290 to 94 or 362-4395, fax to 361-4611 or send e-mail to vazcom@mydestiny.net.

Best of the best: the VW Beetle

ONE OF Motorshow 05's distinctive entries and fabulous displays of an all-winning set of wheels, first-rate car accessories and advanced engineered aerodynamic body kits is presented with this Volkswagen Beetle 2004. Exclusively redesigned, reequipped and reloaded with fine, expertly fitted, all-weather aerodynamic superior fiberglass (RSI-Design) body kit from Starbright Bodykits, and a sporty set of wide, low-profile, premium 18-inch magwheels from AC Motorsport, plus a matching first-rate set of the ever-durable, all-terrain Eagle F1 Tires from Goodyear.

In addition, the PRISM HID (High Intensity Discharge) Lamps further complements and illuminates the distinctive good looks, capped with crisp, quality Alpine sound system set-up by JC Audio. For details on how to dress up your car, visit the Options Unlimited showroom at 47D G.Araneta Avenue, Quezon City or call 714-2635 or log on to www.optionsunlimited.com.ph. All these have made this VW Beetle '04 of Jeff Yap not just fit for show, but just simply supreme. Motorshow '05 was held May 15.

LRPhils' after-sales service

IN AN effort to meet the growing after-sales demand of the Jaguar, Land Rover, Maseratti and Ferrari brands, Land Rover Philippines (LRPhils) has expanded its services by refurbishing its two-storey service facility in Makati City.

Strategically located along Quingua Street, Barangay Pinagkaisahan, Makati City, the massive LRPhils service facility boasts of an inventory of genuine parts for the four marquee brands, a pool of specially trained personnel, computer aided testing equipment, engine tune up and oil change and three heavy duty lifts. The service facility also has an oven for painting and automotive restoration services. "This facility is part of our expansion plans and it complements our two new showrooms in Makati and Ortigas," says Wellington Soong, chair and president of LRPhils. The service facility is also famous for restoring vintage cars to their former glory. "Although our specialization is restoring Jaguars and Land Rovers, we have the capacity to restore other car makes as well," says Soong.

For details about its after-sales services, visit Jaguar-Land Rover showrooms in Enzo Building along Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati and at the Ortigas Center along ADB Road, Ortigas, or call 897-8888, 881-7252.

NISSAN X-TRAIL:

There's no stopping a best seller

An SUV mechanical wonder

THE X-TRAIL is one of the few SUVs in the market that can truly boast of car-like handling and comfort. It is spacious, versatile, and its no slip on startup function (in 4 x 4 lock mode) makes it a safe vehicle to drive on any kind of surface. Those who would like a vehicle that can really take them anywhere should consider the X-Trail.

– [illegible] Andolong, Technical Editor, Manila Bulletin Overdrive

I like the X-Trail because of its 'what you see is what you get' profile. It's not as flashy as the competition, but it has the power and capability to outperform any opponent both on and off road. The X-Trail offers more bang for your buck and is the practical choice for those looking for a car with an executive appeal, yet powerful enough to leave the boys in the dust.

– Dino Ray V. Directo III, Motoring Journalist, Manila Standard Today

Actually, I was really surprised that Nissan was able to produce a mechanical wonder like the X-Trail. It's simply an automotive marvel and a phenomenon in the motoring industry. I wish Nissan could produce more of the kind of quality and technology that the X-Trail has.

– Ariel Mendoza, Motoring Columnist, Philippine Daily Inquirer

TWO years after it was introduced by Nissan Motor Philippines Inc (NMPI), the Nissan X-Trail continues to reign as the country's best selling compact SUV, with sales figures, domestic automotive awards and commendations from owners to prove that.

The X-Trail was introduced in the Philippine market in July 23, 2003 in the presence of Nissan Motor Co Ltd (NML) COO Toshiyuki Shiga (then the SVP in charge of general overseas market) and Masahiro Toi, its brainchild. Since then, it established a very solid reputation that even introduction of new SUV models and variants during the last 18 months failed to make a dent on its popularity as a best seller.

"The X-Trail can truly be described as a class-act, for it relied more on its outstanding merits than on heavy advertising to gain a loyal following and its popularity. And two years after it was introduced in the Philippine market, the X-Trail has many times proven why it is a best seller," explained Dennis Chang, AVP for marketing and sales at NMPI.

Although NMPI touted the X-Trail's real-world offroad capabilities, most of its buyers also raved about its comfortable car-like ride, ease of handling (especially for city driving), enviable on-road performance and interior space. Hence, it is no wonder the X-Trail attracted a wide spectrum of buyers, from adventurous males who love the outdoors, to female drivers who want better mobility for their family or loved ones.

Among the X-Trail's claim to fame is its car-like ride and handling, which is due to its monocoque body structure. This sets it apart from other SUVs, which still have the body over ladder frame structure, that accounts for an almost truck-like ride for some models and variants.

The X-Trail's comfortable ride is also due to its aluminum front transverse links along with trapezoidal rear struts and long stroking shock absorbers, which work in unison to provide a stable and pliant ride, and at the same time smoothen road bumps.

"We sometimes ask our prospects to test drive other SUVs and compare it with the X-Trail's. And most of the time, they are convinced the X-Trail's ride is unmatched in its class," Chang said.

The X-Trail's ease of handling can be attributed to its tight turning radius, responsive steering, and its crisp throttle response from its electronic fly-by-write throttle system. All these make the X-Trail fun to drive at the outdoors, and easy to maneuver in the urban jungle.

The interior space of the X-Trail is something most of its owners rave about. The adequate interior space can be attributed to the X-Trail's squarish but stealthy body design, and its interior being inspired by airline design gives it class-leading legroom.

Motivating the X-Trail is its QR-series 2.5 and 2.0-liter engines, that deliver 180PS and 150PS, respectively. Equipped with CVTC or Continuous Variable Timing Control, the X-Trail's engines are known for their ample torque, responsiveness and smoothness. The engine is mated to the X-Trail's 4WD system that has three modes - front-wheel drive, auto mode (4WD) and lock mode - that can be activated by simply pushing buttons.

Recent styling upgrades to the X-Trail also make it more appealing to SUV buyers, like the Hyper Roof Rail and Hyper-five alloy rims for the 250X, and a rear roof spoiler for the 200X and the 4 x 2. All 2005 X-Trail variants now have the baby fender mirror, rear bumper-mounted Euro fog lamps and V-grille, which gives it a more handsome styling.

"The X-Trail's enviable combination of real-world offroad capability, ease of driving, a comfortable car-like ride, adequate interior room, and solid styling truly make it a best seller, and it has the sales figures and domestic awards to prove that," said Raymond B. Tribdino, NMPI senior manager for market and product planning, who was instrumental in launching the X-Trail in the Philippines in July 2003.

The X-Trail topped the compact SUV charts for the first six months of this year, with 1,396 units sold. This is 15 percent higher compared to the volume of X-Trails sold during the same period last year. In June, 380 units of the X-Trail were sold, the highest monthly sales figure in its segment for 2005.

In 2004, the X-Trail was a mere 182 units short of the number one spot in the compact SUV charts, with 2,976 units sold. It also topped the compact SUV charts six months in 2004.

In other major car markets like Japan, the X-Trail literally emerged a juggernaut of a best seller. For instance, official records from the Japan's Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure showed 30,845 units of the X-Trail were registered in 2004, which is more than twice the volume its closest competitor, and even more than the combined volume of the 2nd and 3rd best selling SUVs in Japan.

Capping the X-Trail's best selling performance in the Philippine market during the past two years are the awards it won during the early part of this year, like the Best Compact SUV given by the Car Awards Group, Inc. (Cagi) during its 1st Car of the Year Awards, and C! Magazine's 1st 10 Best Cars Search. And last April, the X-Trail was voted the Most Popular SUV in the 1st Automobile of the Year Awards-People's Choice (AYPC). To cap it off, it also got the overall AYPC award, making it the first "Automobile of the Year" awardee.

"In the end, however, the best commendations the X-Trail has received are from its thousands of satisfied customers, who continue to spread positive word of mouth about it. They are the primary reason why the X-Trail continues to be a best seller," Chang concluded.

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one of them is the incumbent, and on the ballot is written only such full name, first name or surname, the vote shall be counted in favor of the incumbent;

c) In case the candidate is a woman who uses her maiden or married surname or both and there is another candidate with the same surname, a ballot bearing only such surname shall be counted in favor of the candidate who is an incumbent;

d) When two or more words are written on the same line on the ballot, all of which are the surnames of two or more candidates, the same shall not be counted for any of them, unless one is a surname of an incumbent who has served for at least one year in which case it shall be counted in favor of the latter;

e) When two or more words are written on different lines on the ballot all of which are the surnames of two or more candidates bearing the same surname for an office for which the law authorizes the election of more than one and there are the same number of such surnames written as there are candidates with that surname, the vote shall be counted in favor of all the candidates bearing the surname;

f) When on the ballot is written a single word which is the first name of a candidate and which is at the same time the surname of his opponent, the vote shall be counted in favor of the latter;

g) When two words are written on the ballot, one of which is the first name of a candidate and the other is the surname of his opponent, the vote shall not be counted for either;

h) A name or surname incorrectly written which, when read, has a sound similar to the name or surname of a candidate when correctly written shall be counted in his favor;

i) When a name of a candidate appears in a space of the ballot for an office for which he is a candidate and in another space for which he is not a candidate, it shall be counted in his favor for the office for which he is a candidate and the vote for the office for which he is not a candidate shall be considered as stray, except when it is used as a means to identify the voter, in which case, the whole ballot shall be void;

j) If the word or words written on the appropriate blank on the ballot is the identical name or surname or full name, as the case may be, of two or more candidates for the same office none of whom is an incumbent, the vote shall be counted in favor of that candidate to whose ticket belong all the other candidates voted for in the same ballot for the same constituency;

k) When in a space in the ballot there appears a name of a candidate that is erased and another clearly written, the vote is valid for the latter;

l) The erroneous initial of the first name which accompanies the correct surname of a candidate, the erroneous initial of the surname accompanying the correct first name of a candidate, or the erroneous middle initial of the candidate shall not annul the vote in favor of the latter;

m) The fact that there exists another person who is not a candidate with the first name or surname of a candidate shall not prevent the adjudication of the vote of the latter;

n) Ballots which contains prefixes such as "Sr.", "Mr.", "Datu", "Don", "Ginoo", "Hon.", "Gob.", or suffixes like "Hijo", "Jr.", "Segundo", are valid;

o) The use of the nicknames and appellations of affection and friendship, if accompanied by the first name or surname of the candidate, does not annul such vote, except when they were used as a means to identify the voter, in which case the whole ballot is invalid: Provided, that if the nickname used is unaccompanied by the name or surname of a candidate and it is the one indicated in his certificate of candidacy, the nickname shall be counted in favor of said candidate, if there is no other candidate for the same office with the same nickname;

p) Any vote containing initials only or which is illegible or which does not sufficiently identify the candidate for whom it is intended shall be considered as a stray vote but shall not invalidate the whole ballot;

q) If on the ballot is correctly written the first name of a candidate but with a different surname, or the surname of the candidate is correctly written but with a different first name, the vote shall not be counted in favor of any candidate having such first name and/or surname but the ballot shall be considered valid for other candidates;

r) Any ballot written with crayon, lead pencil, or in ink, wholly or in part, shall be valid;

s) Where there are two or more candidates voted for in an office for which the law authorizes the election of only one, the vote shall not be counted in favor of any of them, but this shall not affect the validity of the other votes therein;

t) If the candidates voted for exceed the number of those to be elected, the ballot is valid, but the votes shall be counted only in favor of the candidates whose names were firstly written by the voter within the spaces provided for said office in the ballot until the authorized number is covered;

u) Any vote in favor of a person who has not filed a certificate of candidacy or in favor of a candidate for an office for which he did not present himself shall be considered as a stray vote but it shall not invalidate the whole ballot;

v) Ballots containing the name of a candidate printed and pasted on a blank space of the ballot or affixed thereto through any mechanical process are totally null and void;

w) Circles, crosses or lines put on the spaces on which the voter has not voted shall be considered as signs to indicate his desistance from voting and shall not invalidate the ballot;

x) Unless it should clearly appear that they have been deliberately put by the voter to serve as identification marks, commas, dots, lines, or hyphens between the first name and surname of a candidate, or in other parts of the ballot, traces of the letter "I", "J" and other similar ones, the first letters or syllables of names which the voter does not continue, the use of two or more kinds of writing and unintentional or accidental flourishes, strokes or strains, shall not invalidate the ballot;

y) Any ballot which clearly appears to have been filled by two distinct persons before it was deposited in the ballot box during the voting is totally null and void;

z) Any vote cast in favor of a candidate who has been disqualified by final judgment shall be considered as stray and shall not be counted but it shall not invalidate the ballot;

  aa) Ballots wholly written in Arabic in localities where it is of general use are valid. To read them, the board of election inspectors may employ an interpreter who shall take an oath that he shall read the votes correctly;

  bb) The accidental tearing or perforation of a ballot does not annul it;

  cc) Failure to remove the detachable coupon from a ballot does not annul such ballot;

  dd) When on the proper spaces for regional governor and regional vice-governor are written the names, surnames or nicknames of official candidates of the same political party for the said offices, the votes shall be counted in their favor;

  ee) When on the space for regional governor is written the name, surname or nickname of an official political party candidate for regional governor and on the space for regional vice-governor is written the name, surname or nickname of an independent candidate or of an official candidate of another political party, the vote shall be counted in favor of the candidates for regional governor and regional vice-governor as written on the ballot;

  ff) When on the space for regional governor is written the name, surname or nickname of an independent candidate for regional governor and on the space for regional vice-governor is written the name, surname or nickname of an independent candidate or of an official candidate of any political party, the vote shall be counted in favor of the candidates for regional governor and regional vice-governor as written on the ballot;

  gg) When on the space for regional governor is written the name, surname or nickname of an official political party candidate for regional governor and the space for regional vice-governor is left blank, the vote shall be counted in favor of the said candidate for regional governor and his running mate for regional vice-governor;

  hh) When the space for regional governor is left blank and on the space for regional vice-governor is written the name, surname or nickname of an official political party candidate for regional vice-governor, the vote shall be counted in favor of the said candidate for regional vice-governor and his party mate for regional governor;

  ii) When the space for regional governor is left blank and on the space for regional vice-governor is written the name, surname or nickname of an independent candidate for regional vice-governor, the vote shall be counted in favor of the independent candidate for regional vice-governor written on the ballot. No vote shall be given in favor of any candidate for regional governor

  jj) When on the space for regional governor is written the name, surname or nickname of an independent candidate for regional governor and the space for regional vice-governor is left blank, the vote shall be counted in favor of the independent candidate for regional governor written on the ballot. No vote shall be given to any candidate for regional vice-governor.

Article VII
Preparation and Safekeeping of Election Returns and Other Election Forms and Paraphernalia

Sec. 48. Preparation of election returns and tally board. – The boards of election inspectors shall prepare in their own handwriting the election returns and tally board simultaneously with the counting of the votes for their respective precincts.

Before the actual counting of votes, the chairman shall record in the election returns the following data:

a) Date of the election; the precinct number, barangay, city/municipality and province in which the election is held;

b) Total number of:

1. Ballots received
2. Registered voters in the precinct;
3. Voters included by order of the court;
4. Voters excluded by order of the court;
5. Voters who actually voted;
6. Ballots found in the compartment for valid ballots;
7. Valid ballots withdrawn from the compartment for spoiled ballots because they were erroneously placed therein;
8. Spoiled ballots;
9. Excess ballots;
10. Ballots found folded together; and
11. Marked ballots.

As the chairman reads the ballots, the poll clerk and the third member shall record simultaneously in the election returns and in the tally board, respectively, the following:

a) Votes obtained by each candidate recorded by a vertical line, except for every fifth vote which shall be recorded by a diagonal line crossing the previous four vertical lines; and

b) Sub-total of votes obtained by each candidate after each pile of 100 ballots read.

After all the ballots have been read:

a) The members of the board of election inspectors shall affix their initials immediately after the last vote recorded or immediately after the name of the candidate who did not receive any vote;

b) The poll clerk and the third member shall record the total number of votes obtained by each candidate in words and figures;

c) The watchers if any, shall affix their signatures and imprint their thumbmarks on the space provided for in the election returns and tally board;

d) The members of the board of election inspectors shall accomplish the certification portion of the election returns and tally board;

e) The board of election inspectors shall ensure that the entries on the first copy of the election returns are clearly impressed on the other copies.

Sec. 49. Announcement of the result of the election. – Upon the completion of the election returns, the chairman shall publicly announce the total number of votes received by each candidate stating their corresponding offices.

Sec. 50. Distribution of election returns. – Immediately after the announcement of results, each copy of the accomplished election returns shall be folded, sealed with a serially numbered paper seal and placed in its corresponding envelope to be distributed as follows:

a) The first copy, to the Provincial Board of Canvassers;
b) The second copy, to the Regional Board of Canvassers;
c) The third copy, to the Commission;
d) The fourth copy, to the citizens arm authorized by the Commission to conduct an unofficial count;
e) The fifth copy, to the dominant majority party presenting candidate in this election as determined by the Commission;
f) The sixth copy, to the dominant minority party presenting candidate in this election as determined by the Commission;
g) The seventh copy, to be deposited inside the ballot box.

The board of election inspectors shall issue Certificate of Votes Received by Candidates (CE Form 13) upon request of the candidates or their duly accredited watchers. The certificate shall be signed and thumbmarked by each member of the board of election inspectors and shall contain:

a) The total number of votes obtained by a candidate, written in words and in figures;
b) The precinct number;
c) The name of the city or municipality and province;
d) The total number of voters who voted in the precinct; and
e) The date and time of its issuance.

The board of election inspectors shall require the requesting watcher to acknowledge receipt hereof.

The refusal of the chairman and members of the board of election inspectors to furnish said certificate shall constitute an election offense.

Sec. 51. Amendment and correction in the election returns. – Before the announcement of the results of the election in the precinct, the board of election inspectors may, on its own, make any amendment or correction in the election returns and tally board provided the amendments or corrections are duly initialed by all the members thereof.

After announcement of the results of the election in the precinct, the board of election inspectors shall not make any amendment or correction in any of the copies of the election returns, unless so ordered by the Commission upon petition of all or the majority of the members of the board of election inspectors within five (5) days from the date of the election or twenty-four (24) hours from the time a copy of the election returns concerned is opened by the board of election inspectors, whichever is earlier. The petition shall be accompanied by proof of service upon all candidates affected. If the petition is filed by all members of the board of election inspectors and the results of the election would not be affected by said correction and none of the candidates affected objects thereto, the Commission, upon being satisfied of the veracity of the petition and of the error alleged therein, shall order the board of election inspectors to make the proper correction on the election returns.

However, if a candidate affected by said petition objects thereto, whether the petition is filed by all or only a majority of the members of the board of election inspectors and the result of the election would be affected by the correction sought to be made, the Commission shall proceed summarily to hear the petition. If it finds the petition meritorious and there is no evidence or sign indicating that the identity and integrity of the ballot box have been violated, the Commission shall order the opening of the ballot box. After satisfying itself that the integrity of the ballots therein has also been duly preserved, the Commission shall order the recounting of the votes of the candidates affected and the proper corrections made on the election returns, unless the correction sought is such that it can be made without the need of opening the ballot box.

Sec. 52. Disposition of ballot boxes, keys, election returns and other documents. – Upon the termination of the counting of votes and the announcement of the results of the election in the precinct, the board of election inspectors shall:

a) Give the copies of the election returns intended for the dominant majority party, dominant minority party and the citizens' arm authorized by the Commission to conduct an unofficial count, to their respective representatives, if any, who have been authorized by said parties and organizations to receive such copies. If there is no such authorized representative in the counting center, the board of election inspectors shall submit said copies to the Special Action Officer duly assisted by the Election Officer.

b) Place the following inside the compartment of the ballot box for valid ballots:

h) Envelopes containing:
  i. Counted official ballots;
  ii. Copy of Election Returns intended for the ballot box;
  iii. Copy of the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes intended for the ballot box;
  iv. Half of torn unused ballots;
  v. Marked ballots;
  vi. Spoiled ballots; and
  vii. Excess ballots.

2. Tally board; and
3. Stubs of used pads of official ballots.

i) Close the inner compartments of the ballot box, lock them with one (1) self-locking serially numbered fixed length seal. Close the ballot box and lock the outer cover with three (3) padlocks and one (1) self-locking serially numbered fixed length seal. The three (3) keys to the padlocks shall be placed in separate envelopes, which shall be sealed and signed by all members of the board of election inspectors;

j) Deliver the ballot box, accompanied by watchers, to the city or municipal treasurer.

For this purpose, the city/municipal treasurer shall provide at the counting center the necessary facilities for said delivery at the expense of the city/municipality.

In case the ballot box delivered by the board of election inspectors is not locked and/or sealed, the treasurer shall lock and/or seal the ballot box. The treasurer shall include such fact, including the serial number of the self-locking serially numbered fixed length seal used, in his report to the Commission.

k) Deliver to the Election Officer:

1. Book of Voters;
2. EDCVL;
3. PCVL;
4. Three (3) envelopes, each containing a key to a padlock of the ballot box, which shall each be delivered, under proper receipt, to the:
   a. Provincial Election Supervisor;
   b. Provincial Prosecutor;
   c. Provincial Treasurer.
5. Envelope containing the copy of the Minutes of Voting and Counting of Votes intended for the Commission;
6. Envelope containing the other half of torn unused official ballots;
7. List of Voters allowed to vote after the close of voting; and
8. Other pertinent papers and documents.

l) Deliver to the Provincial Election Supervisor or his duly authorized representative the envelopes containing copies of the election returns intended for the:
  i. Provincial Board of Canvassers;
  ii. Regional Board of Canvassers; and
  iii. Commission on Elections.

After the counting of votes, the Provincial Election Supervisor, Election Officer assisted by the Special Action Officer or the Treasurer, as the case may be, shall require the board of election inspectors which failed to deliver the election documents or paraphernalia mentioned herein to deliver the same immediately.

Sec. 53. Use and preservation of the list of voters. – The Election Officer assisted by the Special Action Officer shall keep the EDCVL and PCVL in a safe place until such time that the Commission gives instructions on their disposition.

Sec. 54. Omission or erroneous inclusion of documents in ballot box. – If, after locking the ballot box, the board of election inspectors discovers that some documents or articles required to be placed in the ballot box were not placed therein, the board of election inspectors, instead of opening it to place therein said documents or articles, shall deliver the same to the Election Officer. The Election Officer shall take appropriate measures to preserve the integrity of the documents.

In no instance shall the ballot box be reopened to place therein or to take out therefrom any document or article except in proper cases and with prior written authority of the Commission to retrieve copies of the election returns which will be needed in any canvass. In such instance, the members of the board of election inspectors and the watchers shall be notified of the time and place of the opening of said ballot box. However, if there are other authentic copies of the election returns outside of the ballot box which can be used in the canvass, such copies of the election returns shall be used in said canvass and the opening of the ballot box to retrieve copies of the election returns placed therein shall then be dispensed with.

Article VIII
Delivery and Transmittal of Election Returns

Sec. 55. Delivery and transmittal of election returns. – The board of election inspectors shall deliver to the Provincial Election Supervisor or his duly authorized representative, copies of the election returns intended for the following:

a) Provincial Board of Canvassers
b) Regional Board of Canvassers; and
c) Commission on Elections.

The copies of the election returns intended for the dominant majority party, the dominant minority party and the citizens arm authorized by the Commission to conduct an unofficial count, shall be given in the counting center to their respective representatives who have been authorized by said parties and organizations to receive such copies. If there is no such authorized representative in the counting center, the board of election inspectors shall submit said copies to the Special Action Officer/Election Officer.

Sec. 56. Delivery and transmittal of election returns by the provincial election supervisor. – The Provincial Election Supervisor or his duly authorized representative shall segregate all copies of the election returns received from the board of election inspectors and deposit them in ballot boxes. Thereafter, he or his duly authorized representative shall lock each ballot box with three padlocks and self-locking serially numbered fixed length seal, and deliver the ballot boxes and their keys to the body or offices concerned with sufficient security escort from either the PNP or AFP and watchers of political parties, candidates and the accredited citizens arm of the Commission.

The ballot boxes containing copies of the election returns intended for the Commission, the Provincial Board of Canvassers and Regional Board of Canvassers, with their keys, shall be submitted using the fastest means of transportation available not later than twelve o'clock noon on August 9, 2005.

For purposes of transmitting copies of the election returns intended for the Regional Board of Canvassers and the Commission, the Provincial Election Supervisor shall designate the most reliable election assistant holding permanent appointment to deliver all copies thereof to the Commission on Elections in Manila, not later than August 11, 2005. However, if the venue for the regional canvass will not be held in Manila, the election returns intended for the Regional Board of Canvassers shall be delivered by the Provincial Election Supervisor to the said board, together with the certificate of canvass of votes for regional governor and regional vice-governor.

In every case, delivery shall be undertaken with sufficient security escort and watchers of candidates, parties, organization or coalition.

Sec. 57. Special procedures. – The express provisions of this resolution notwithstanding, the Commission may, in exceptional cases, adopt special procedures in the transmission, storage, custody, distribution and retrieval of accountable forms and paraphernalia to fulfill its constitutional mandate to ensure free, orderly, honest, peaceful and credible elections.

Sec. 58. Effectivity. – This resolution shall take effect on the seventh day after its publication in two (2) daily newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines, and in two (2) local newspapers in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Sec. 59. Dissemination. – Let the Education and Information Department, this Commission, cause the publication of this resolution and furnish copies thereof to the Regional Election Director, Provincial Election Supervisors, and all Election Officers in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao at least thirty (30) days before election, and to all boards of election inspectors at least fifteen (15) days before election.

SO ORDERED.

BENJAMIN S. ABALOS
Chairman

RUFINO S.B. JAVIER
Commissioner

MEHOL K. SADAIN
Commissioner

RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Commissioner

Florentino A. Tuason Jr.
FLORENTINO A. TUASON, JR.
Commissioner

(PDI – July 22, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING AND REGULATORY BOARD
East Avenue, Quezon City

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 2005-023

SUBJECT : MODIFYING DEPARTMENT ORDER NO. 2004-52 RELATIVE TO THE OPENING OF AUV/VAN EXPRESS SERVICES AS NEW PUBLIC LAND TRANSPORT CLASSIFICATION AND PROMULGATING ITS IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS

Pursuant to Department Order 2005-010 "Policy Guidelines on the Exercise of Authority and Functions by the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board", the LTFRB can now amend or modify, in part or in its entirety, existing Department Order(s) previously issued by DOTC governing the powers and functions of LTFRB, specifically in prescribing and regulating routes, economically viable capacities and zones, or areas of operation for public land transportation services provided by motorized vehicles in accordance with public land transportation development plans and programs approved by DOTC.

As such, under DOTC Department Order 2004-52, dated 06 October 2004, which amended Department Order 97-1097 "Providing Standard Classification for All Public Transport Conveyances", included the **AUV/Van Express Service** as a new Public Land Transport Classification is hereby modified/amended to adopt the following specific provisions and guidelines:

A. Technical and Operational Characteristics and Attributes:

1. Type of Service	: AUV/Van Express Service -
2. Seating Capacity and Body Make	: Asian Utility Vehicles (AUVs) such as Toyota FX, Mitsubishi Adventure, Isuzu Highlander and similar body types with nine (9) passengers including driver (2 in-front, 3 in the middle and 4 at the back) for AUVs. Lift-back models are not qualified for conversion (i.e. Toyota Revo, Isuzu Crosswind and Mitsubishi Adventure model 2004). Regular vans (Kia Besta/Pregio, Toyota Hi Ace, Mitsubishi L-300, Nissan Urvan Shuttle, Mazda E2000, Hyundai Grace and other similar body types) must have a maximum of ten (10) passengers, including driver (2 in-front, 2 at the back of the driver, 2 in the middle row and 4 at the rear seats). Jump-seats must be removed. Extended vans (Nissan Urvan VX, Toyota Hi Ace Commuter) must have 12 passengers including driver (2 in-front, 2 at the back of the driver, 2 at the near middle row, 2 at the far middle and 4 at the rear seats). Jumpseats must be removed. Freight Board (FB) Type Vans (Mitsubishi L-300 FB, Kia Ceres and similar body types) must have a maximum of 14 passengers, including driver (2 in-front, 6 per row at the back). Two-point seatbelts and dual air-conditioning unit (optional in rural areas) must also be provided.
3. Route	: Fixed route, subject to the recommendation of the DOTC-Road Transportation Planning Division (RTPD) and approval of the Board. : Shall not directly compete with MRT/LRT, PUB and PUJ routes. Maximum of 25% direct co-routing with PUB and PUJ routes may be allowed. : **Terminal to Terminal with no loading/unloading between route origin and destination.**
4. Route Ceiling Distance	: **Metro Manila and adjoining areas:** 35 kilometers **Regional and Rural Areas:** 35 kilometers for intra-regional routes 75 kilometers for inter-regional routes Provisions for exemptions exceeding 75 are subject to LTFRB Regional Director endorsement/recommendation and Board approval. Distances exceeding 140 kilometers are subject to a joint endorsement by DOTC-RTPD/LTFRB TWG and final Board approval. Provided further that the franchise to be issued shall be subject to Route Rationalization once the Inter-modal Terminal Projects of the Department is completed.
5. Maximum Age Requirement	: Thirteen (13) years reckoned from the date of manufacture of unit(s)
6. Ventilation	: Air-conditioned for urban areas and optional air-conditioned ventilation for rural areas, subject to LTFRB-RD recommendation and final Board approval.
7. Color Scheme	: All White, including bumpers
8. Fare	: Based on total route or zonal distance, as regulated and authorized by LTFRB.

B. General Guidelines:

The following implementing guidelines shall be adopted under the AUV/Van Express Service:

1. *Coverage.* Conversion to AUV/Van Express Service shall apply to all operators with subsisting Certificates of Public Convenience (CPCs) under the following transport service denominations which are utilizing Asian Utility Vehicles and Vans:
   - 1.1 School Transport Service (except vans)
   - 1.2 Shuttle Service
   - 1.3 Vehicle-for-Hire Service
   - 1.4 Filcab
   - 1.5 Garage Service
   - 1.6 Air-conditioned Public Utility Jeepneys
   - 1.7 Trucks-for-Hire

   However, petitions/applications for late filing of expired CPCs/franchises of the above-mentioned types of service utilizing AUVs and Vans with an expiry date as of 27 May 2004 (MC 2004-016) to present may be accepted, subject to Board approval.
2. *AUV/Van Express Operations.* Overall operations shall be governed by the principle of **"Terminal to Terminal Only" and "No pick-up(Loading), No drop-off (Unloading)"** while operating in a given route. The primary operational concept shall target and motivate those currently using private vehicles to shift to being commuters utilizing an alternative and comparatively convenient mode of public transport
3. *AUV/Van Express Franchise Conversion Applications.* Conversion of the aforecited subsisting transport classifications with CPCs utilizing AUVs and Vans in inter-regional routes in Mega-Manila (Metro Manila*, Bulacan, Pampanga, Rizal, Cavite, Laguna and Quezon) shall be implemented from 01 August 2005 to 30 December 2005.

   Conversion of provincial operations (intra and inter-regional routes) in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao shall be implemented, subject to a separate Memorandum Circular to be issued by the Board

   * *intra-regional routes in Metro Manila (NCR) shall be included in the current AUV/Van Express conversion process.*
4. *Exemptions on Route Ceiling Distance.* AUV/Van Express Service routes must not be more than the above-mentioned ceiling distances. However, exemptions may be considered by the Board, subject to the results of Transport Studies/Survey to be conducted by the DOTC-Road Transport Planning Division with the following considerations:
   - 4.1 Absence of an "*intervening commercial/highly urbanized areas*" between route ends. An intervening area is defined as a strategic area capable of absorbing transfer of passengers and where an adequate supply of public transport services to cater connecting services is assured.
   - 4.2 There are no alternative transport services or the existing services or supply cannot meet the passenger demand and in some cases the route is abandoned.
   - 4.3 Most sections of the route have limited road space or width capacity that discourage/prevent normal operation.
   - 4.4 The transport demand between the applied routes is not substantial to assure profitable operations.
   - 4.5 The route applied for is inter-provincial in nature, exceeding 16 kilometers but not the maximum of 35 kilometers.
   - 4.6 Absence of an adequate transfer service area between route ends.

   Inter-regional and/or provincial operations, routes more than 35 kilometers but less than 140 kilometers, shall be provided with safety and maintenance check stop-overs/transfer stations at midpoint. AUV/Van Express groups, associations and cooperatives shall be responsible for the setting-up of said safety check stop-overs and/or transfer stations.
5. *Route Identification.* Route Identification shall be subject to the DOTC-Road Transport Planning Division (RTPD) Transport and Passenger Demand Survey. Initially, the routes should be feeder access to urban centers (CBDs) and terminals of higher modes of transport (i.e. MRT/LRT in Metro Manila and PUB in the regions). The 25% co-routing scheme with PUB and PUJ shall be imposed, however the following exemptions may be considered, subject to Board approval:
   - 5.1 Inasmuch as toll-ways are neutral access where all types of PUVs are not allowed to load/unload passengers, AUV/Van Express routes utilizing said toll-ways should be considered as non-factor for co-routing.
   - 5.2 The use of Diversion Roads where there is direct lateral competition with PUJs and PUBs shall also be considered as a non-factor for co-routing, provided that traffic capacities are not impaired.
   - 5.3 The use of a major highway as a single transport link in a particular region may be exempted from co-routing, provided that higher capacity modes (i.e. PUB and mini-buses) could not meet the passenger demand (quantitative) and convenience (qualitative).
6. *Route Coding Scheme.* The following Route Coding shall be adopted in order to differentiate routes and ensure traffic law enforcement compliance. The following Alpha-Numeric Nomenclature shall be adopted:

a) A - Inter-Regional Routes
b) B - Intra-Regional Routes

Luzon
c) R1 - Region 1
d) R2 - Region 2
e) R3 - Region 3
f) R4 - Region 4
g) R5 - Region 5
h) CAR- Region (CAR)
i) NCR - Region NCR (CARAGA)

Visayas
j) R6 - Region 6
k) R7 - Region 7
l) R8 - Region 8

Mindanao
m) R9 - Region 9
n) R10 - Region 10
o) R11 - Region 11
p) R12 - Region 12
q) R13 - Region13

Example 1:

B-NCR-01 (Ex. Ayala-Alabang via SLEX)

Example 2:

A-R3NCR-01 (Ex. Malolos – Monumento via NLEX)

Where : First alphabet, refers to inter-regional route if A and B for intra-regional routes.
: First alpha/numeric value (R3) refers to region of origin, which is Region 3 Central Luzon (example 2) if inter-regional while NCR if intra-regional route in Example 1.
: Second alpha/numeric value (NCR) refers to region of destination, which is NCR.
: Third and fourth numerical values (0&1) refers to route code number assigned.

It may be noted that the maximum code range would be 8 digits, depending on the number of routes. If the number of routes exceed 99, then the number of digits would be increased by 1.

7. *Operational Proximity.* Only applicant-operators residing and/or with business address within a 5-kilometer radius from at least one (1) terminal of route ends shall be given priority to operate in a particular route. In no case shall operators be allowed to pick-up/drop-off passengers en-route to their designated terminals. However, provincial AUV/Van operations are exempted from the 5-kilometer proximity rule.
8. *Minimum Requirement for Terminals.* Terminals should be "Off-Street" and situated at route end points with covered passenger waiting areas, loading/unloading bays and vehicle lay-over areas. Presence of amenities such as free drinking stations and clean comfort rooms, separately for male, female and persons with disabilities shall be checked. A diaper changing booth/station should also be present. Adequate parking area to accommodate at least 33% of the total authorized units terminating on said terminals and computed at 16 square meters per AUV/Van unit.

   Terminals are subject to LTFRB inspection procedure and compliance with local government unit and/or HLURB clearances and other pertinent guidelines.

   Applicant-operators must present a Lease Contract and/or certification duly issued by the concerned terminal manager allowing them the use of terminal(s). In the event of termination of contract or terminal access agreement, the operator shall notify the Board within fifteen (15) days from date termination. Should there be no replacement of an alternative terminal, the Board shall automatically revoke/cancel the issued CPC.

   Garages should be "Off-Street" and "Off-Side-walks" with an ample space to accommodate number of unit(s) applied for.
9. *Schedule and Procedure of Payment of Compromise Conversion Fees and other Related Charges.* An additional Compromise Conversion Fee amounting to P 30,000.00 per unit shall be collected by LTFRB (per Department Order 2004-52), separate from regular fees and charges, be payable within FY 2005. Payment shall be in the form of Manager's/Cashier's checks payable to LTFRB with the following schedule of payment options:
   - 9.1 Full payment of 30,000.00 upon Filing of Application
   - 9.2 Installment Plan
     - a) Two Partial Payment Scheme
       - P 15,000.00 upon filing of application
       - P 15,000.00 upon release of Decision
     - b) Four (4) Partial Payment Scheme
       - P 7,500.00 upon filing of application
       - P 7,500.00 upon appearance during hearing
       - P 7,500.00 upon inspection of vehicle
       - P 7,500.00 upon release of decision/order.
10. *Sale and Transfer/Dropping and Substitution.* Applications for Sale and Transfer of CPCs shall not be allowed within a period of five (5) years from the date of approval. Perfected sale and transfer beyond this period shall be interpreted as proof of non-financial capability by the franchise holder, therefore, such operator may not be considered for future grant of franchise for the same mode. However, Applications for Dropping and Substitution of Units shall be allowed provided that newer models should be used as substitutes with a life span of five (5) remaining years before phase-out
11. *Modification of Routes.* Applications/Petitions for Modification of Routes shall not be allowed within the effectivity period of the CPC (5 years)
12. *Qualified Year Models* Only AUV/Van Express units reaching the thirteen (13) year-old maximum age maturity within the 5-year term of the CPCs shall be allowed. Reckoning 2010 as the maturity date, only unit models from 1998 to present shall be allowed for conversion
13. *Establishment of Seaport Taxi.* This sub-classification shall be established for operations specifically dedicated to service passengers at seaports nationwide which is designed for Metered Taxis using AUVs. A separate Memorandum Circular shall be issued to cover operational details.
14. *Security Markings and Decals.* All units under this denomination shall be issued a Route Panel Identification Marking with security features i.e. bar code, etc. specifying actual route description located inside the upper front windshield and both right and left side body. The text of the "How's my Driving" Project shall also be included in the rear glass decals. The payment for the security markings and decals is included in the Thirty Thousand Pesos (P30,000.00) Conversion Fee.
15. *Evaluation Criteria.* In the evaluation of applications, the following criteria for ranking shall be adopted:
   - *15.1* **Submission of Annual Reports and ITR/Tax Clearances for the past two (2) years wherein the Financial Capacity shall be evaluated (30%)**
     - a) Capital Expenditures-Total Assets Ratio (10%)
       To determine the applicants' capacity to effectively operate its units, a greater degree of allocation for capital expenditures shall be established. (Range is 0.1-0.5)
     - b) Liabilities / Total Assets Ratio (10%)
       To effectively assess the applicants' capability to maintain and sustain the operations of its units, the least liability shall be the benchmark. (Range is reciprocal of 0.1-1)
     - c) Fiscal Efficiency or Cash Flow Trend (10%)
       A comparative assessment shall be undertaken on the trend of the applicants' total assets on a yearly basis for at least two years to determine its economic growth and improvement. (Range is 1-100%, if negative-no points shall be given.)
   - *15.2* **Quality of Service (20%)**

     Safety, Comfort and Convenience

     Mandatory inspection of units shall be undertaken to include a check on regular maintenance schedules and units' conformity with the provision of the IRR of Land Transportation and Traffic Code (RA 4136). Moreover, the following amenities shall be checked and inspected:
     - a) Condition of interior features such as carpets, matting, seat covers and scent.
     - b) Functional capacity of air conditioning unit.
     - c) Presence of fire extinguisher, emergency light/flashlight, basic tools and first aid kit.
     - d) Waste disposal unit.
   - *15.3* **Law Enforcement Reports (30%)**
     - a) Reports from PNP-TEG/TMG (10%)
     - b) Reports from LTO (10%)
     - c) Reports from MMDA (10%)
       PNP,LTO and MMDA must indicate apprehensions/violations and payments made.
   - *15.4* **Terminals (10%)** (subject to provision B-8 of this MC)
   - *15.5* **Garage (10%)** (subject to provision B-8 of this MC)

     Demerit points shall be deducted for non-compliance with MCs/related rules (-2 for every MC violated)
16. *Creation* **of an LTFRB AUV/Van Express Processing Secretariat.** A separate Processing Secretariat shall be created to facilitate and ensure the smooth implementation in the processing of all applications for AUV/Van Express Conversion. The following is the composition:

Head, Secretariat	-	Office of the LTFRB Chairperson
Members	-	TED Rep.
		MID Rep.
		Administrative Office Rep.
		Legal Office Rep.
		Finance Rep.
		Mailing Contractor Rep.

The Secretariat shall be under the direct supervision of the Office of the LTFRB Chairperson and a separate office space shall be provided to serve as the nerve center.

C. Procedural Guidelines.

1. *Information Dissemination and Acceptance of Applications via Courrier Service and Mail.* Initially, LTFRB Secretariat shall inform, through mail, all subsisting CPC holders of aforementioned qualified types of service utilizing AUVs/Vans for the Conversion Process. The following steps shall be undertaken:
   - a) Based from the MID list of verified franchises (FVs) that are qualified for Conversion, the Secretariat shall inform the prospective applicants that they are qualified under the AUV/Van Express Conversion Program. Along with the Pre-qualification letter, Application/Information Forms and Checklist of Requirements shall be sent to the qualified CPC holder(s) through Philpost registered mail. The respondent(s) shall signify their intent to operate in three (3)-preferred routes applied for and prioritized ranked in terms of operational requirements, particularly on the proximity rule.(*Should there be an excess of applications on a particular priority route applied for, the Secretariat shall automatically designate the next priority route, provided that the route is still open)* The respondents shall also choose the terms/schedule of Conversion Fee payments among the options presented in the Application/Information Form.
   - b) Upon filling-up, the respondent-operator shall call a Secretariat telephone hotline to schedule pick-up of document package via Courier Service, including the payment (Manager's/Cashier's Check) and duly accomplished application form, LTO OR/CR of vehicle and other required documents (xerox copy) from the residence or business address of the operator.
   - c) Central Office-Window 4 shall be designated as the Mail Center (Incoming and Out-going) during the processing period.
2. *Issuance of Notice of Hearing, Certificate of RMC Availability (CRA) and Payment Order Slip (POS).* The Secretariat, upon receipt of the payments and application forms, shall conduct a pre-screening procedure to determine completeness and order of documents. Should documents be complete, the Secretariat shall prepare the corresponding Notices of Hearing (Legal Office Rep.) and consolidated list of all qualified applicants on a per route/batch basis. The Secretariat shall also prepare the corresponding Certificate of RMC Availability for signature of both the LTFRB Chairperson (CHP) and the Board Member for Technical Services (BMTS), based on the quota per route as determined from the Transport Survey conducted by DOTC-RTPD. The Cashier shall issue the corresponding Payment Order Slip during this stage.
3. *Assignment of New Case Numbers and Final Evaluation.* The batch of qualified Applicant's case folders with the signed CRAs shall be turned over to the TED Rep. for Case Number assignment and final evaluation in terms of financial viability, technical/operational feasibility including pertinent attachments and requirements. All CPCs/franchises for conversion shall be assigned a new case number, however the old case number shall be cited in the ensuing decision as a basis for conversion and databanking. As such, the LTFRB MID/Records Officers shall cancel or remove all converted case numbers from existing LTFRB dockets/entries and render said case numbers void/nullified.

   TED shall conduct technical and ocular inspection of terminals in all routes applied for within 3 days from submission of applications, subject to the above requirements. Thereafter, immediately transmit the said inspection reports to the Board through the Planning Unit.
4. *Publication, Hearing and other Legal Procedures.* Prior to hearing, the operator-applicant must pay the Cashier based on the POS issued and the Official Receipt must be presented to the Hearing Officer for verification. Regular hearing procedures shall follow after proper publication in any newspaper of general circulation. After presentation of FOEs and affirmative resolution, decisions shall be prepared for final Board approval.
5. *Board Approval and Docketing.* Upon Board approval, decisions shall be sealed with LTFRB holograms and transmitted to the Docket Section including the case folder. After docketing, the case folder shall be forwarded to the MID for encoding and subsequent delivery via courier or should there be a 4th installment payment to be collected.
6. *Actual Unit Inspection and Installation of Decals and Markings.* TED shall conduct actual unit inspection at the Central Terminal after the Board approves the Conversion Decision. During the said inspection, LTFRB panel route identification markings and decals shall be installed at the top windshield, both mid-body sidings and top of the rear windshield of the vehicle. LTFRB shall also collect the Conversion Fee installment payment for those operators who availed of the 4-Payment Plan
7. *Attachments.* Attached herewith as Annex "A" is the List of Routes determined by the DOTC-RTPD with corresponding distance and Route Measured Capacity.

Other rules and regulations that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Memorandum Circular Order are hereby repealed and/or modified accordingly.

This Memorandum Circular shall take effect fifteen (15) days following the filing of three copies hereof with the Up Law Center, pursuant to Presidential Memorandum Circular No. 11, dated 09 October 1992.

SO ORDERED.

Quezon City, Philippines 21 July 2005

MARIA ELENA H. BAUTISTA
Chairperson

GERARDO A. PINILI
Board Member

FELIX S. RACADIO
Board Member

The Following is the summary breakdown for AUV/Van Express Routes

Route Location	No. of Routes	RMC
North Bound		
A. Region III		
1. Bulacan	17	878
South Bound		
B. Region IV		
1. Cavite	24	1385
Intra-Regional	1	23
Inter-Regional	23	1362
2. Laguna	15	673
Intra-Regional	3	170
Inter-Regional	12	503
East Bound		
3. Rizal	21	1163
Intra-Regional	1	30
Inter-Regional	20	1133
C. NCRNorth Bound		
1. Caloocan	10	315
2. Malabon	1	45
3. Marikina	4	97
4. Quezon City	13	533
5. San Juan	1	21
6. Valenzuela	1	15
South Bound		
1. Las Piñas	5	182
2. Makati	1	59
3. Muntinlupa	5	196
4. Parañaque	3	79
5. Pasig	4	188
6. Pateros	2	52
7. Taguig	8	333
Total	135	6267

ANNEX "A"

[illegible]

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MAKATI

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RESIDENTIAL, COMM'L, OFFICE UNITS (Sale/Rent)09192189817

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• Pioneer Robson nr Sch •
•Malls 1.6-10M 34-167m^2•
•440-1876 / 411-0420 •
•0918-928-7902•

APARTMENT

CAVITE

3 UNITS DIRECT BUYER (0917)624-3900 or (0917)623-3900 REMVELLE SAGANA ST BACOOR CAVITE

LOT

MARIKINA

SSS Vill. 1578m^2 634-1212

PARANAQUE

100&230m^2.In-Hse Financing .nr Rodriguez St. Moonwalk 0920-654-0954

QUEZON CITY

GRAND VILLAS Top Row w/view back ATENEO LOTS hse & lots avble 426-5650 929-1832 • 0919-8212235

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TAGAYTAY W/ VIEW 500-600m^2 NR ROTONDA 6337601-03

Tayabas Quezon 1500m^2 6453731

CAVITE

SILANG NR T'GAYTAY ALONG AGUINALDO H-WAY 3HAS 160M FRONTAGE P1TH/M^2 2776578 7213127 09173825198

LAGUNA

192m^2. In-Hse Financing. Southpeak1 (Filinvest), San Pedro. 0920-654-0954

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CALAUAN LAGUNA LANZONES FARM FRUIT BEARING 3HAS NR NAT'L RD P400/M^2 2776578 7213127 09173825198

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ALABANG

141 Batangas West Ayala Alabang 5BR 5TB w/s-pool 0926-7102225

MANILA

House/Bedspacers 1500-7000 Call AJ 09204136412 5610960

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

4Rent Penthse Dela Rosa P15T w/ dues 0917-8860440

MANILA

CONDO NR UST 9155835289

NR LASALLE 3BR 3TB 8992148

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

OTHER PROVINCIAL

BANK ACQUIRED ASSET FOR SALE
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Area: 525 sqms.
Price: P1,224,000.00
For inquiries, please call:
UNITED COCONUT PLANTERS BANK
Asset Management and Disposition Division
Hotline No. 8119797

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CONDO/TWNHSE

MANDALUYONG

Man. Exec Mansion P8.5T w/dues Call 0917-8860440

APARTMENT

MAKATI

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COMML/RESDL 7394A SANTILLAN MAKATI 10T 7351167

MANILA

Samp 6459302 - 7841746

QUEZON CITY

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BNEW studio PROJ.2 4342604 / 0919-2876641

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BF P'QUE P200l 8275345

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Mktl nr Ayala P1T Ldy 8974697

RESORT LEASE/ RENT

Pansol Hot Spring priv 7767507

LOAN & MORTGAGE

1.4% MONTHLY 8976644-46 LAS PINAS 8054326 / 6342 QUEZON CITY 3730239-40 CAINTA/PASIG 2401300/3500

BUSINESS . DOCTOR 524-3197

MAKATI

COMML/OFFICE SPACES FOR LEASE (58m^2- 627m^2) 887-6003

256m^2 0917-8860440 Pembo Mktl

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Cheap Van 9330311;9348411

STAREX'05 MB100 9483535

P800/L3 9136710 / 4333682

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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

OTHER PROVINCIAL

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

1.5% Auto Easy 5344441

1.5% Auto Express 5221001-02

1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 788-0361

1.5% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1Hour Car Loan 9153460

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

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ANNOUNCEMENT

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of Charles L. Corpuz who died on Dec. 28, 1987 was extrajudicially settled by his heirs per Doc. #956, Page #192, Book #X, Series 2005 Notarized by Atty. Almel S. Mngandog Mangandog of Cainta, Rizal (PDI-July 8, 15 & 22, 2005)

Notice is hereby given that estate of late CONCEPCION RODIL MARTIRES has been adjudicated by her lone heir JORGE RODIL MARTIRES thru affidavit of self adjudication dated July 1, 2005 appearing as Doc. No.295 Page No.160 Book No.XIV Series 2005 before Notary Public Atty. Mario D. Ortiz of Cebu City. PDI-July 8, 15 & 22, 2005

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE JOHNSON REY M. GO HAS BEEN EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED BY HIS HEIRS PER DOC. NO.421; PAGE NO. 84; BOOK NO. II; SERIES OF 2005 BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC ROMEO G. DE LEON OF QUEZON CITY (PDI-JULY 15, 22 & 29, 2005)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late LEONCIO CU has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per Doc# 36; Page# 9; Book# XI; Series of 2005 before notary public Atty. Gavino Meneses, Jr. of Makati (PDI-July 22, 29 & Aug. 5, 2005)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that STOCK CERT. NOS. 061735 (4shrs); 085414 (2shrs); 104596 (1shr); 124823 (2shrs); 253063 (1shr) 300746 (1shr) under the name of MIGUEL G. LAGMAN and STOCK CERT. NOS. 108095 (20shrs); 205313 (1shr); 300747 (1shr) under the name MIGUEL GOZO DE STA CRUZ LAGMAN issued by Philippine NAtional Bank has been reported lost. If no contest received new certificates will be issued. (PDI-July 15, 22 & 29, 2005)

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS
LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE
East Avenue, Quezon City

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 631-2005
6 July 2005

TO : All Regional Directors, Assistant Regional Directors, Heads of District/ Licensing/Extension Offices and Personnel Concerned

SUBJECT : **COLLECTION OF COMPUTER FEES FOR LETAS**

Upon the successful completion of the functional and operational testing, Certificates of Acceptance of an IT Facility (CAIFs) for the following Law Enforcement and Traffic Adjudication System (LETAS) modules were issued at the sites and on the dates stated in the attached schedule:

Law Enforcement and Traffic Adjudication System (LETAS)

1. Admitted Case Settlement with Report Generation
2. Contested Case Settlement with Report Generation
3. Clearance

Revenue Collection System (RCS)

1. Fees payment for LETAS
2. OR Re-printing
3. OR Number Modification
4. OR Inventory
5. Start of Day
6. End of Day
7. Deposit of collections

Accordingly, pursuant to the LTO Information Technology Project Build-Own-Operate Agreement of the UAT Plan, you are hereby directed to commence the collection of the below specified computer fees for the modules of LETAS applicable to your respective sites as follows:

	Computer Fee	VAT	Total
1. Admitted Case Settlement	P48.00	P4.80	P52.80
2. Contested Case Settlement	P48.00	P4.80	P52.80
3. Clearance	P48.00	P4.80	P52.80

Subsequent sites to be issued CAIF to implement the LETAS shall immediately commence collection of the above specified computer fees upon issuance of the corresponding Memorandum Circular by the undersigned Assistant Secretary.

All orders/memoranda in conflict herewith are deemed superseded.

This Memorandum Circular shall take effect after publication from three (3) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

For strict compliance.

(Sgd.) ANNELI R. LONTOC
Assistant Secretary

Approved:

(Sgd.) LEANDRO R. MENDOZA
Secretary

LIST OF SITES WITH CAIF IN LETAS
as of 16 February 2005

Region	District Office
CO NCR	LETAS Section - Central Office NCR - Regional Office
Region 2	Regional Office - Operations Div. Appari DO Bayombong DO Cauayan DO Ilagan DO Roxas DO San Isidro DO Santiago EO Tuguegarao DO
Region 3	Regional Office - Operations Div. Angeles DO Balanga DO Baliuag DO Baloc DO Bataan LC Bulacan LC Cabanatuan DO Gapan DO Guagua DO Iba DO Mabalacat EO Malolos DO Nueva Ecija LC Olongapo DO Pampanga LC San Fernando DO San Jose DO SBMA EO Tarlac DO Tarlac LC Zambales LC
Region 4	Balayan DO Boac DO Cainta EO Calapan DO Cavite DO Imus DO Lucena DO Palawan DO Pila DO Romblon DO San Pablo DO Tagaytay EO
Region 5	Regional Office Daet DO Guinobatan DO Iriga DO Masbate DO Naga DO Sorsogon DO Tabaco DO Virac DO
Region 6	Region Office - Operations Div. Antique DO Cadiz DO Calinog DO Himamaylan DO Kalibo DO Roxas DO
Region 7	Regional Office - Operations Div. Bais DO Carcar DO Dumaguete DO Jagna DO Lapu-Lapu DO Siquijor DO Tagbilaran DO
Region 8	Borongan DO Calbayog DO Carigara DO Catarman DO Catbalogan DO Maasin DO Naval DO Ormoc DO Palompon EO San Isidro DO San Juan DO
Region 10	Gingoog DO Malaybalay DO Oroquieta DO Ozamis DO Tangub DO
Region 11	Regional Office - Operations Div Digos DO Mati DO Tagum
CAR	Abra DO Bangued DO Ifugao DO La Trinidad DO
CARAGA	Surigao DO Tandag DO

(PDI - July 22, 2005)

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"previous applicants need not apply"

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS
LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE
East Avenue, Quezon City

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 632-2005
6 July 2005

TO : All Regional Directors, Assistant Regional Directors, Heads of District/Licensing/Extension Offices and Personnel Concerned

SUBJECT : **COLLECTION OF COMPUTER FEES**

Upon the successful completion of the functional testing and beta live run, Certificates of Acceptance of an IT Facility (CAIFs) for the Automated Driver's License Examination System (ADLES) module of the Driver's Licensing System (DLS) were issued last March 19, 2003 at the sites stated in the attached schedule.

Accordingly, pursuant to the LTO Information Technology Project Build-Own-Operate Agreement and the UAT Plan, you are hereby directed to commence collection of the below specified computer fees after publication as provided herein, for the modules of the DLS applicable to your respective sites as follows:

	Computer Fee	VAT	Total
ADLES	P48.00	P4.80	P52.80

Subsequent sites to be issued CAIF to implement the ADLES shall immediately commence collection of the above specified computer fees upon issuance of the corresponding Memorandum Circular by the undersigned Assistant Secretary.

All orders/memoranda in conflict herewith are deemed superseded.

This Memorandum Circular shall take effect after publication from three (3) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

For strict compliance.

(Sgd.) **ANNELI R. LONTOC**
Assistant Secretary

Noted:

(Sgd.) **LEANDRO R. MENDOZA**
Secretary

LIST OF SITES WITH AUTOMATED DRIVER'S LICENSE EXAMINATION SYSTEM (ADLES)
-utilizing Type 3 checking

Region I:
1. Dagupan City District Office
2. Laoag City District Office
3. San Fernando City District Office
4. Vigan District Office

Region II:
1. Tuguegarao Licensing Center

Region III:
1. Bataan Licensing Center
2. Bulacan Licensing Center
3. Nueva Ecija Licensing Center
4. Pampanga Licensing Center
5. Tarlac Licensing Center

Region IV:
1. Batangas City Licensing Center
2. Cabuyao District Office
3. Cavite City Licensing Center
4. Laguna Licensing Center
5. Cainta Extension Office

Region V:
1. Legaspi City District Office
2. Naga City District Office

Region VI:
1. Iloilo City Licensing Center
2. Negros Occidental Licensing Center

Region VII:
1. Cebu City Licensing Center
2. Tagbilaran City District Office

Region X:
1. Malaybalay District Office

Region XI:
1. Central Boulevard District Office

Region XII:
1. General Santos City D.O.

National Capital Region:
1. Caloocan Licensing Center
2. Eastern Licensing Center
3. Northern Licensing Center
4. Southern Licensing Center
5. Southern Licensing Ext. Center
6. Western Licensing Center

CARAGA:
1. Butuan City District Office

(PDI - July 22, 2005)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS
LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE
East Avenue, Quezon City
E-mail Address: ltombox@lto.gov.ph • Website: www.lto.gov.ph

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 630-2005
23 June 2005

TO To the Regional Directors, Assistant Regional Directors, Heads of Operations Division, Cashiers and Employees Concerned
Regional Office No. 9 - Zamboanga City
Regional Office No. 12 - Cotabato City

SUBJECT **COLLECTION OF COMPUTER FEES FOR MAIDRS**

Upon successful completion of the functional and operational testing, Certificates of Acceptance of an IT Facility (CAIFs) were issued for the Manufacturers, Assemblers, Importers and Dealers Reporting System (MAIDRS) modules in the attached schedule at the sites and on the dates stated

Accordingly, pursuant to the LTO Information Technology Project Build-Own-Operate Agreement and the User Acceptance Test (UAT) Plan, you are hereby directed to commence collection of computer fee for the issuance of Certificate of Stock Reported (CSR) for the following modules applicable to your respective sites as follows:

Stock Reporting	Computer Fee	VAT	Total
• CBU	P120.00	P12.00	P132.00
• Surplus	P120.00	P12.00	P132.00

All orders/memoranda in conflict herewith are deemed superseded.

This Memorandum Circular shall take effect after publication from three (3) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

For strict compliance.

(Sgd.) **ANNELI R. LONTOC**
Assistant Secretary

LIST OF SITES WITH CAIF IN MAIDRS
(As of 1 March 2005)

Region	Site	Module
Region 9	Regional Office	Stock Reporting with CSR • CBU • Surplus Sales Reporting • CBU • Surplus
Region 12	Regional Office	Stock Reporting with CSR • CBU • Surplus Sales Reporting • CBU • Surplus

(PDI - July 22, 2005)

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

Metal Fabricator Estimator

Qualifications:
- Male & Female 23-35 years old
- 2-3 Years Experience as Metal Estimator
- College Graduate / Under Graduate
- Know how to use office software
- w/ Pleasing personality

Interested and Qualified Applicants will be applied personally at NORTH STAR

#100 San Rafael Street, Mandaluyong City
Tel. # 532-3056 to 59 / 532-5622

BAGUIO WATER DISTRICT
"We Serve"

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Baguio Water District invites bidders to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids for the implementation of an annual **CORRECTIVE/PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICES** for all computer equipment and accessories of the Baguio Water District.

Interested parties may obtain pre-qualification and bid documents from the BAC-In House Secretariat, Baguio Water District, BWD Compound, Utility Road, Baguio City after payment of a non-refundable fee of five hundred pesos (P500.00) during office hours from 25 to 27 July 2005.

Deadline for the submission of eligibility and bid documents shall be on 5 August 2005, on or before 12:00 o'clock noon. Opening and evaluation of the eligibility documents shall follow at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon of the same day.

The bidder or his/her authorized representative shall personally submit all requirements insofar as the latter is authorized through a Special Power of Attorney.

The BAC-In house shall determine the eligibility of a prospective bidder using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria.

The BWD reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding or not to award the contract as provided for under the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 or the Government Procurement Reform Act.

For further information, inquiries may be coursed through the BAC-In House Secretariat at the aforementioned address at telephone numbers (074) 444-7245.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. MA. LUISA C. TENEDERO**
Chairman, BWD BAC-In House

(PDI–July 15 & 22, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
Zamboanga City
Phidco Bldg., Veterans Avenue, Zamboanga City
Tel. #: (062) 991-0118; Trunk Lines: (062) 991-2007, 991-2544, 991-0624;
Telefax: (062) 991-2010

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and To Bid

The SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM (SSS) Zamboanga City is inviting bidders to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid for a two (2) years contract for any or all of the following:

Security Services for: Zamboanga (11), Dipolog (3), Jolo (4), Tawi-Tawi (3), Pagadian (4), Basilan (3) Ipil (3) Total: 31 Guards Source of Funding: Maintenance & Repair-Building-Security Services	Approved Budget for Two-Year Contract Php 7,376,983.28
Janitorial Services for: Zamboanga (8), Dipolog (2), Jolo (1), Tawi-Tawi (1), Pagadian (3), Basilan (1), Ipil (1). Total. 17 Janitors Source of Funding: Maintenance & Repair-Building-Janitorial Services	Approved Budget for Two-Year Contract Php 3,293,358.24

Application for eligibility is open to all security/janitorial agencies with at least 5 years experience, and with valid license or business permit to undertake the services described herein.

Issuance for Eligibility Forms will be available to interested bidders from **August 1, 2005 to August 13, 2005** at the BAC Secretariat, Administrative and General Accounting Section, 2nd Floor, Phidco Bldg., Veterans Avenue, SSS, Zamboanga City.

Submission of Eligibility Requirements for Security and Janitorial Services will be on **August 28, 2005 and August 29, 2005, respectively, from 9:00AM to 5:00PM** for screening on a pass/fail criteria by the BAC-Secretariat.

Distribution of the Terms of Reference (TOR), Bid Proposal form, Draft of the Proposed Contract to eligible bidders will be on **September 5, 2005** upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 3,000.00 for security services and Php 1,000.00 for janitorial services.

All eligible bidders issued with bid documents are required to attend the Pre-Bid Conference on **September 15, 2005 at 9:00 AM for security services and 2:00 PM for janitorial services** at the Conference Room, Office of the AVP/Cluster Head, 3rd Floor, Phidco Bldg., Veterans Avenue, SSS, Zamboanga City.

Submission of duly accomplished Bid Proposals for Security and Janitorial Services shall be on **September 22, 2005 from 8:30 AM to 1:30 PM**. Opening of the Bids shall be on **September 22, 2005 at 2:00 PM for Security Services and Janitorial Services** at the Conference Room, Office of the OIC/Cluster Head, 3rd Floor, Phidco Bldg., Veterans Avenue, SSS, Zamboanga City, in the presence of COA-Auditor and participating bidders or their authorized representatives.

All Bids shall be accompanied by Bid Security (Bid Bond) in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check equivalent to 1% of the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) or 2 ½ % of the ABC in the form of a Surety Bond (GSIS only).

The SSS reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any formality or defects and to make an award to the proposal most advantageous to the System. The SSS neither assumes any obligation for whatsoever losses that the bidders may incur in the preparation of their bids nor guarantees that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. RODRIGO B. FILOTEO**
Chairperson
Bids and Awards Committee-Cluster
Western Mindanao Cluster

(PDI–July 22, 2005)

CAGELCO II

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Cagayan II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CAGELCO II) is inviting all interested bidders to pre-qualify and to bid for the following materials and equipment:

1. Digital Protection Relay (Areva, Micom-P122, 120vDC or equivalent)
2. Digital Protection Relay (Areva, Micom-P123, 120vDC or equivalent)
3. Annunciator/Tripping Panel
4. Commissioning of 5-MVA Power Transformer, Protective Devices and Accessories of Zitanga, Ballesteros

To be qualified, bidder must have fully complied with the following:

1. Accreditation requirements: (for submission to Accreditation Committee Chairman, Clarence E. Jacinto)

a) Company Profile
b) Business Registration
c) Business Permit
d) BIR/VAT Certificate
e) Latest Income Tax Return (ITR)
f) List of Clients for a period of 3 years if applicable

2. Must be able to pay P2,000.00 (for this particular bidding only and not refundable) for bid documents during the pre-bidding conference.

CAGELCO II reserves the right to reject any/or all bid without any reason, waive any formality therein, accepts proposal most advantageous to the cooperative and assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify any bidder for expenses or, losses that may be incurred in the preparation of bid nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

Pre-bid conference and bidding schedules shall be informed to all qualified bidders through fax and mails.

Deadline of submission of requirements – July 28, 2005.

(Sgd.) GABRIEL A. TORDESILLAS
General Manager

(PDI – July 15 & 22, 2005)

PRISM
PRIVATE SECTOR MOBILIZATION FOR FAMILY PLANNING

USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Quality Improvement/Assurance Training Specialist

The PRISM Project is seeking a Quality Improvement/Assurance Training Specialist. The overall scope of this position is to identify and implement quality improvement approaches which will enhance the use of private sector family planning services. In addition the specialist will provide support for training activities for private sector providers.

Qualifications:
- Graduate degree in public health or related field
- At least five years experience using QA and QI methodologies in a variety of health care settings focused on FP, RH or maternal health in the Philippines.
- Proven knowledge and application of state-of-the-art QI and PI approaches
- Technical, practical and theoretical expertise in QI, QA, performance improvement, and client-provider interaction as applied to RH/FP services, gender sensitive approaches; training; and participatory methodologies
- Expertise implementing QI and QA approaches and tools
- Proven capacity as a trainer and in the development of RH/FP, or maternal health training programs
- Demonstrated leadership working with private and public sector health care providers, technical advisors, experts, and management staff from the public, private and NGO sectors
- Excellent interpersonal, oral/written communication skills
- Experience in working with international counterparts to develop and implement QI approaches and tools and monitor and evaluate their use.

Submit resumés by August 5, 2005 electronically to EngenderHealth, HR@EngenderHealth.org

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Municipality of BONGAO

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Government of the Philippines through the Department of Land Reform (DLR) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts of Rural Infrastructure Component for which this Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid is issued.

The Local Government Unit of Bongao, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to ~~bid for~~ the hereunder contracts:

Name of Contract : Concreting of Kamagong – Silubong FMR
Location : Bongao, Tawi-tawi
Brief Description : Road Concreting
Approved Budget Cost : Php 7,453,657.17
Contract Duration : 81 calendar days
Contractor's Category : Small "B"

Name of Contract : Concreting of Masjid – Tarawakan – Kamagong FMR
Location : Bongao, Tawi-tawi
Brief Description : Road Concreting
Approved Budget Cost : Php 16,847,214.96
Contract Duration : 171 calendar days
Contractor's Category : Medium "B"

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	*Schedule*
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	August 2-8, 2005
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	August 2-8, 2005
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	August 8, 2005
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	August 10, 2005
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	August 10-22, 2005
6. Pre-Bid Conference	August 13, 2005, 9:00 A.M.
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	August 25, 2005, 10:00 A.M.

The BAC will issue to prospective Bidders *Eligibility Forms* at BAC Secretariat, Municipal Hall Bongao, Tawi-tawi, upon their submission of a LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of Two Thousand Pesos only (Php 2,000.00) for each contract to the LGU of Bongao's Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Three Thousand Five Hundred Pesos only (Php 3,500.00) for each contract to the LGU of Bongao's Cashier.

The LGU of Bongao assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids

Approved by:
(Sgd.) **MOH.NUR BAHAD**
BAC Chairman

(PDI – July 22, 2005)

PNOC
The Energy Company

PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION
Building I, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Telephone Nos.: 893-6001 to 47 local 2104
Direct Line: 840-2024/Fax No.: (632) 840-1619

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC) through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites interested contractors to apply for eligibility and submit sealed bids for the **TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY OF ISABELA INTEGRATED MINE MOUTH COAL FIRED POWER PLANT (IP05-878) AT CAUAYAN, ISABELA PROVINCE**. The contract duration is two (2) months. The approved budget for this contract is Php200,000.00 chargeable against PNOC EC funds.

Eligibility and Bid Documents shall be available for issuance at the above address from the Contracts Administration Group (c/o Mr. George N. Alejandro) starting July 26, 2005 upon payment of non-refundable fee of PESOS: Two Thousand Five Hundred (PHP2,500.00). The prospective bidder or his/her authorized representative shall receive the eligibility and bid documents personally.

Eligibility of prospective bidders to participate will be based on compliance to eligibility requirements, using pass/fail non-discretionary criteria, as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A) of RA 9184. The Government Procurement Reform Act. Only those Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check shall be opened. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on **August 8, 2005, 2:00 P.M.** at PNOC EC Conference Room, Bldg. 1, Energy Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

The First Envelope containing the Eligibility Requirements, the Second Envelope containing the Technical Bid, and the Third Envelope containing the Financial Bid, shall be submitted to the Bids and Awards Committee not later than **2:00 P.M. of August 22, 2005** at the PNOC EC Conference Room, Bldg. 1 Energy Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City (Attention: the undersigned or George N. Alejandro) and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter. **Late Bids shall not be accepted.**

PNOC EC assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expense in the preparation of the bid. Moreover, PNOC EC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any formality in the bid requirements, declare the bidding a failure, or award the contract to the bidder whose offer is the most responsive, lowest calculated bid, and most the advantageous to the government.

This publication is also posted in our website at www.pnoc-ec.com.ph and in the DBM website at www.procurementservice.net.

(Sgd.) Jose M. Eijansantos
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--July 22, 2005)

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*We in the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)
extend our deepest sympathies and condolences
to Labor and Employment Secretary Patricia A. Sto. Tomas
and her family on the death of their mother*

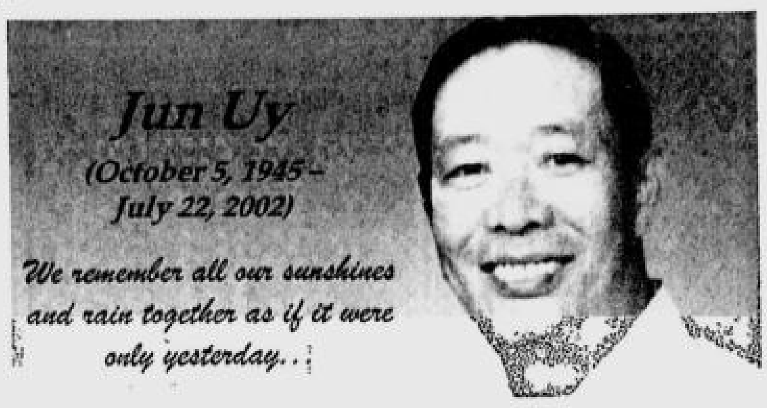
PRISCILLA V. ARAGON

who joined her Creator on July 21, 2005 at the age of 83.

*We share immensely with the grief of her loving children:
Secretary Sto. Tomas, Pearl, Enrique, Marian, Pilar,
and Joji; grandchildren; and other relatives.*

*We also request our social partners and pious readers
to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.*

*Her body lies in state at the Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes
in Davao City. She will be cremated today, Friday, July 22, 2005.*



Jun Uy
(October 5, 1945 – July 22, 2002)

We remember all our sunshines and rain together as if it were only yesterday...

RUCELA "RUCING" COLOMA-DACANAY

Peacefully joined our God Almighty at the age of 76 on July 16, 2005.

Her bereaved husband, **Cornelio**, children: **Rosenelia and Noli**; **Marita and Jessie**; **Nita Catherine and Allen**; and **Milner Clarito**, grandchildren, brothers, sisters, relatives and friends, request readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the residence in Pinili, Ilocos Norte.

Interment will be on Sunday, July 24, 2005 at the Pinili Municipal Cemetery.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

Death Notices

VICTOR TOMELDEN LUCERO

died at age 52.

Brother of former Manila Councilor Cesar T. Lucero, Jr. and son of the late former M.P.D. Chief Cesar V. Lucero died last Sunday, July 17, 2005.

He is survived by his brothers and sisters and in laws, **Chito and Susan**, **Violet Lucero vda. de Santos**, **Arturo and Aimee**, **Roy Eduardo and Celina**, **Carmelita and Terry Acosta** and nephews and nieces and grandchildren.

His body lies at Funeraria Dulce (Abad Santos St., Tondo, Manila). Interment will be on Sunday, July 24 at 9:00 a.m.

SK BENEDICTO S. POSADAS

Former Grand Knight,
Knights of Columbus Council 6085
President, Parish Pastoral Council,
Christ the King Parish, Project 7, QC

Peacefully joined his Creator on July 19, 2005 at the age of 72.

His body lies in state at the Resurrection Chapel, Sta. Maria della Strada Church, Katipunan Ave., Quezon City until the afternoon of July 22, 2005. He will then be transferred to the Christ the King Parish Church, Project 7, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, July 23, 2005 at the Eternal Gardens, Quezon City, after the 1:00 p.m. mass.

Dra. Milagros Perez Agojo

*died last July 20, 2005
at the age of 52.*

She is survived by her parents: **Ireneo N. Agojo, Sr.** and **Virginia Perez Agojo**; siblings: **Erlinda Cornico**; **Ireneo Jr.**; **Reynaldo**; **Estrellita**; **Roberto**; and **Manolo**.

Her body lies in state at the St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Parish Memorial Chapel I.

Interment will be at the Eternal Garden in Lipa City on Saturday, July 23, after a 9:30 a.m. Mass at Magallanes.

"Even when I walk through a dark valley, I feel no harm. For you are at my side, your rod and staff give me courage..."
Psalm 23:4

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies, and whoever believes in Me will never die." John 11:25-26

Col. Moises J. Buhain (Ret.)

*Has gone to his eternal rest in the peace of our Lord
on July 20, 2005 at the age of 89.*

*His beloved wife **Belicia de Guzman Buhain (†)**; son **Renato G. Buhain** & daughter-in-law **Marides Buhain**, together with his grandchildren **Benedict** and **Susan**, **Benjie** and **Millet**, **Jun** and **Pam**, **Jamin** and great grandchildren **Julya**, **Bea**, **Emma** & **Audrey**.*

*And his brothers and sisters **Rocio B. Villarta (†)**, **Vicente Buhain, Jr.**, **Efren Buhain (†)**, **Amado Buhain**, **Luz J. Buhain** and **Zenaida Newbard (†)** request the pious readers to say a prayer for the repose of his soul.*

His body lies in state at Capilla dela Virgen, Santuario de San Antonio Parish, McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment will be held after the 9:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, July 24, 2005 at the La Loma Catholic Cemetery.

"I am the Resurrection and the Life, he who believes in Me will live even when he dies and no one who lives and believes in Me will never die".

FILOMENA FLORES CRISOLOGO

July 5, 1924 - July 20, 2005

Her loving children: Jesus & Rosario Crisologo, Jocelyn & Alfonso Saquilon, Merle & Clinton Laudencia, Juan Crisologo Jr.; grandchildren: Joanna & Rino & Paolo Belgica, Josemarie, Jerimae, Jessica & Jacqueline; Trixie, Aljo, Luigi, Gian; Pierse, Erika Mei, Meriel, Patricia Kay; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapel, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Sunday at 2:00 P.M., the 24th day of July 2005, at the Loyola Memorial Gardens, Marikina City.

MA. SOLEDAD P. DE JESUS

*now peacefully rests in the Grace and Goodness of our Lord
on July 20, 2005 at the age of 45.*

Her loving family, relatives and friends request to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel C, La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City where cremation rites will be held tomorrow, July 23, 2005 at 11:30 A.M.

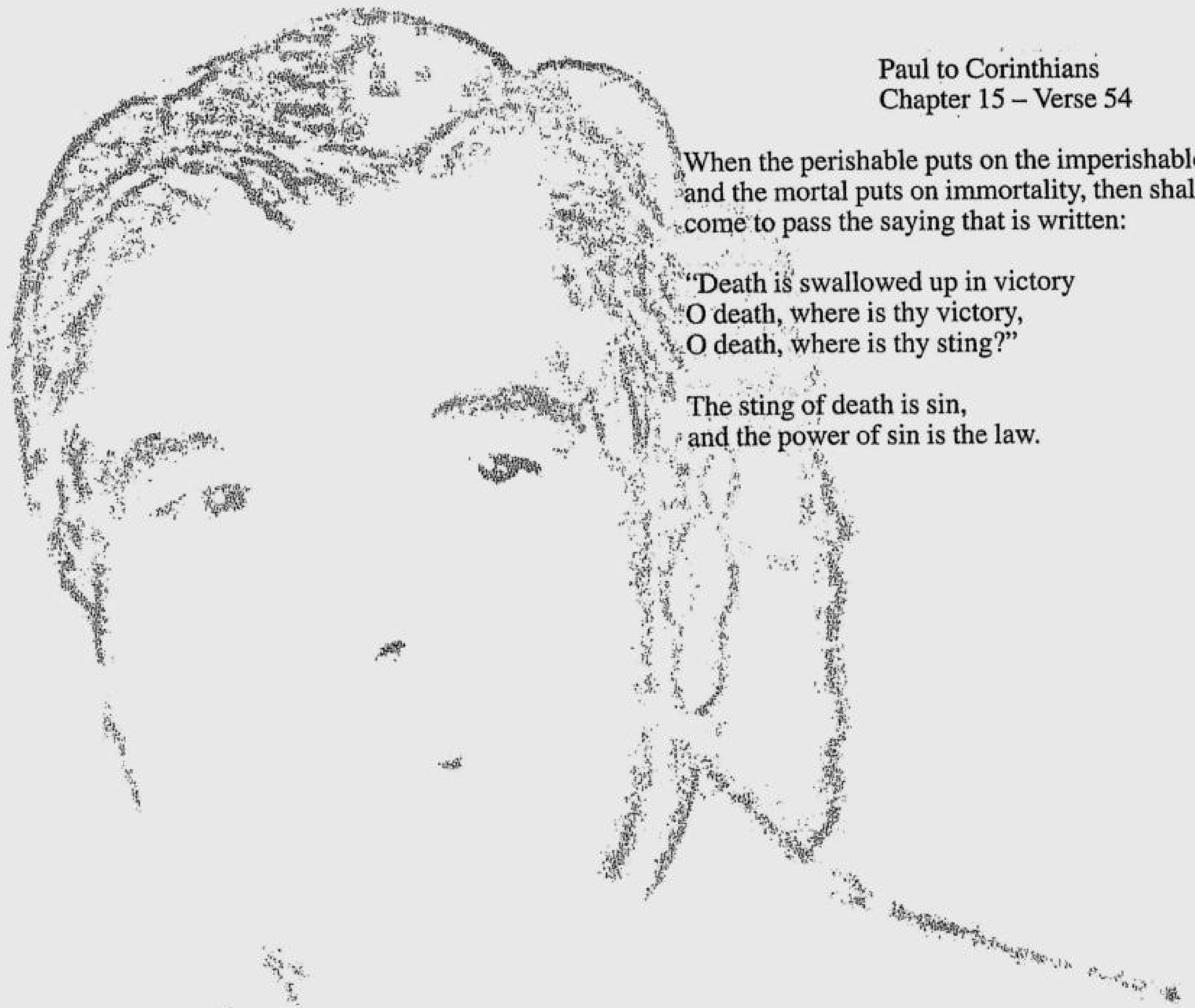
Interment will be on Sunday, July 24, 2005 at the Good Sheperd Memorial Park, San Fernando, Pampanga.

The PHILIPPINE ORTHOPEDIC ASSOCIATION
Expresses its sincerest sympathy
to the family
of

MA. SOLEDAD P. DE JESUS

*Who passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on July 20, 2005.*

The Officers, Board of Trustees, Fellows and Diplomates
and The POA Secretariat humbly offer their prayers
for the eternal repose of her soul.



Paul to Corinthians
Chapter 15 – Verse 54

When the perishable puts on the imperishable,
and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall
come to pass the saying that is written:

"Death is swallowed up in victory
O death, where is thy victory,
O death, where is thy sting?"

The sting of death is sin,
and the power of sin is the law.

MICHAEL LOPEZ RECTO

September 29, 1932 – July 21, 2005

Papal Awardee Pro Ecclesia Et Pontifice

Chairman Emeritus – Midland Pacific Development Corp.
President – Angela Management & Trading Corp.
Honorary Member – Rotary Club of Makati

His bereaved wife, ANGELA LEDESMA RECTO
son, PHILIP
daughter-in-law, SANDRA
grandchildren, NIKKI, BIANCA, LIANA & FRANCIS RECTO

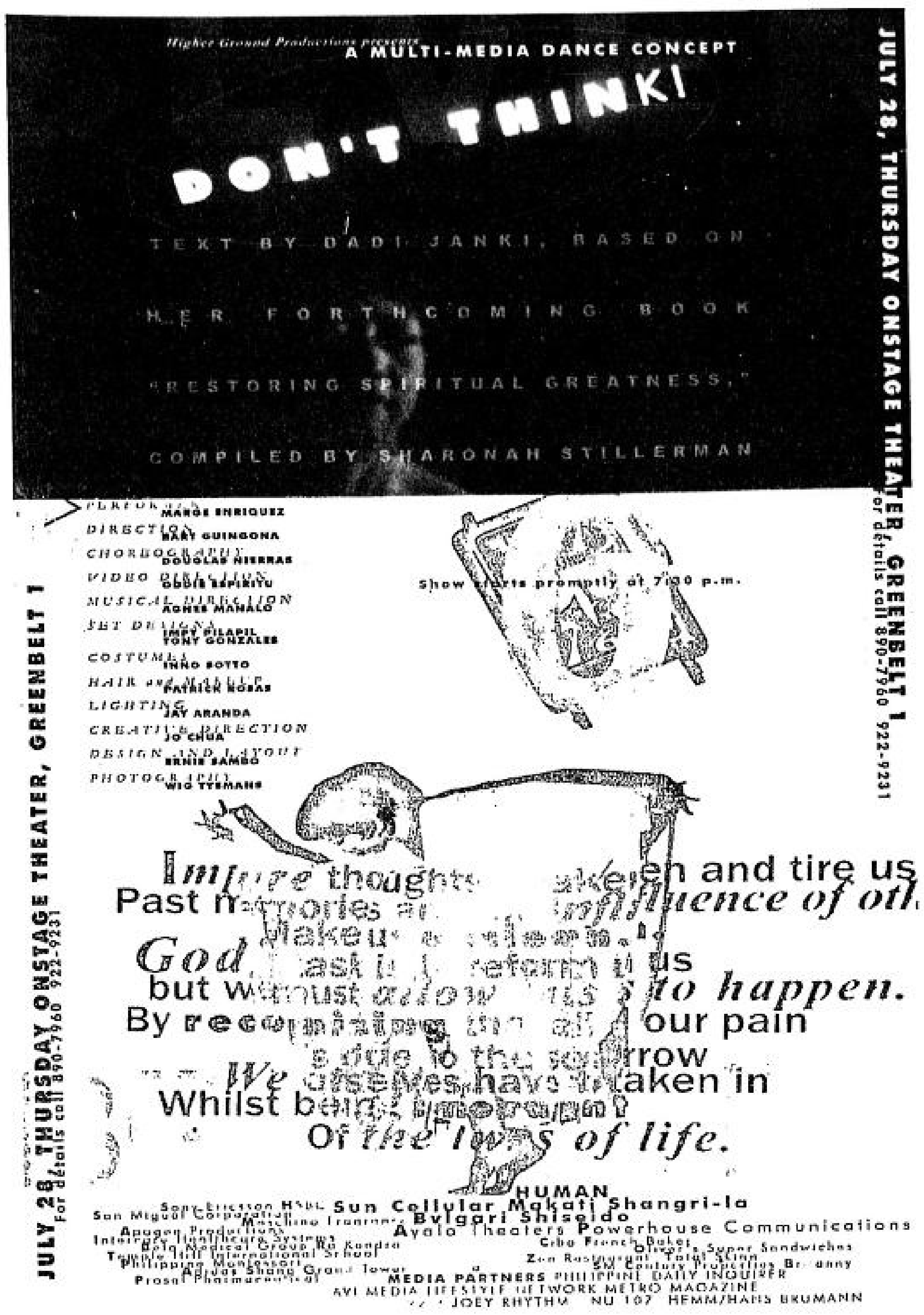
His brothers, sister and in-laws:
CESAR † & NENA RECTO
RAMON † & CARMEN RECTO †
VINCENT † & OFFIE RECTO
HELEN † & DIDI ZAMORA †
TIRSO † & BABY RECTO †
ALFIE † & ALICE RECTO

His brothers and sisters-in-law:
GEORGE & CELINE L. GADDI
FROILY & MILEN L. ARAGON
RAMON † & BABY L. VELARDE
BEN & JOSIE LEDESMA
PALLE & ALICE L. NIELSEN

*His body lies in state at No. 9 Margarita St., Magallanes Village, Makati City
where masses will be said everyday at 7:00 P.M.*

*Interment will be at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City
after the 9:00 A.M. mass on Sunday, July 24, 2005.*

In lieu of flowers, donation to the ***SHEPHERD OF HERMANS FOUNDATION,*** *whose beneficiaries include Missionaries of Charity of Mother Theresa, St. Alphonsus de Liguori Parish Church and Our Lady of Peace Mission Hospital, will be greatly appreciated.*



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SET DESIGN IMPY PILAPIL, TONY GONZALES
COSTUMES INNO SOTTO
HAIR and MAKEUP PATRICK ROSAS
LIGHTING JAY ARANDA
CREATIVE DIRECTION JO CHUA
DESIGN AND LAYOUT ERNIE SAMBO
PHOTOGRAPHY WIG TYSMANS

Show starts promptly at 7:00 p.m.

Impure thoughts weaken and tire us
Past memories and the influence of oth
Wake us afresh
God, I ask you to reform us
but we must allow this to happen.
By recognising the cause of our pain
's due to the sorrow
We ourselves have taken in
Whilst being ignorant
Of the laws of life.

HUMAN
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San Miguel Corporation Bvlgari Shiseido
Apugan Productions Ayala Theaters Powerhouse Communications
Interpro Healthcare Systems Cibo French Baker
Bata Medical Group Ra Kandra Oliver's Super Sandwiches
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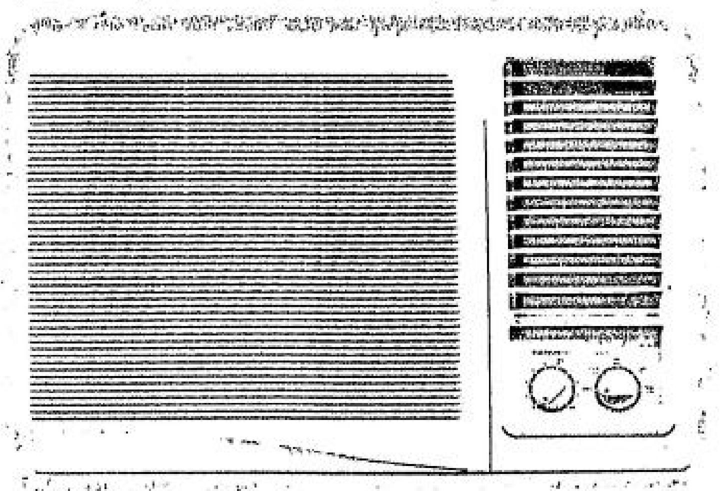

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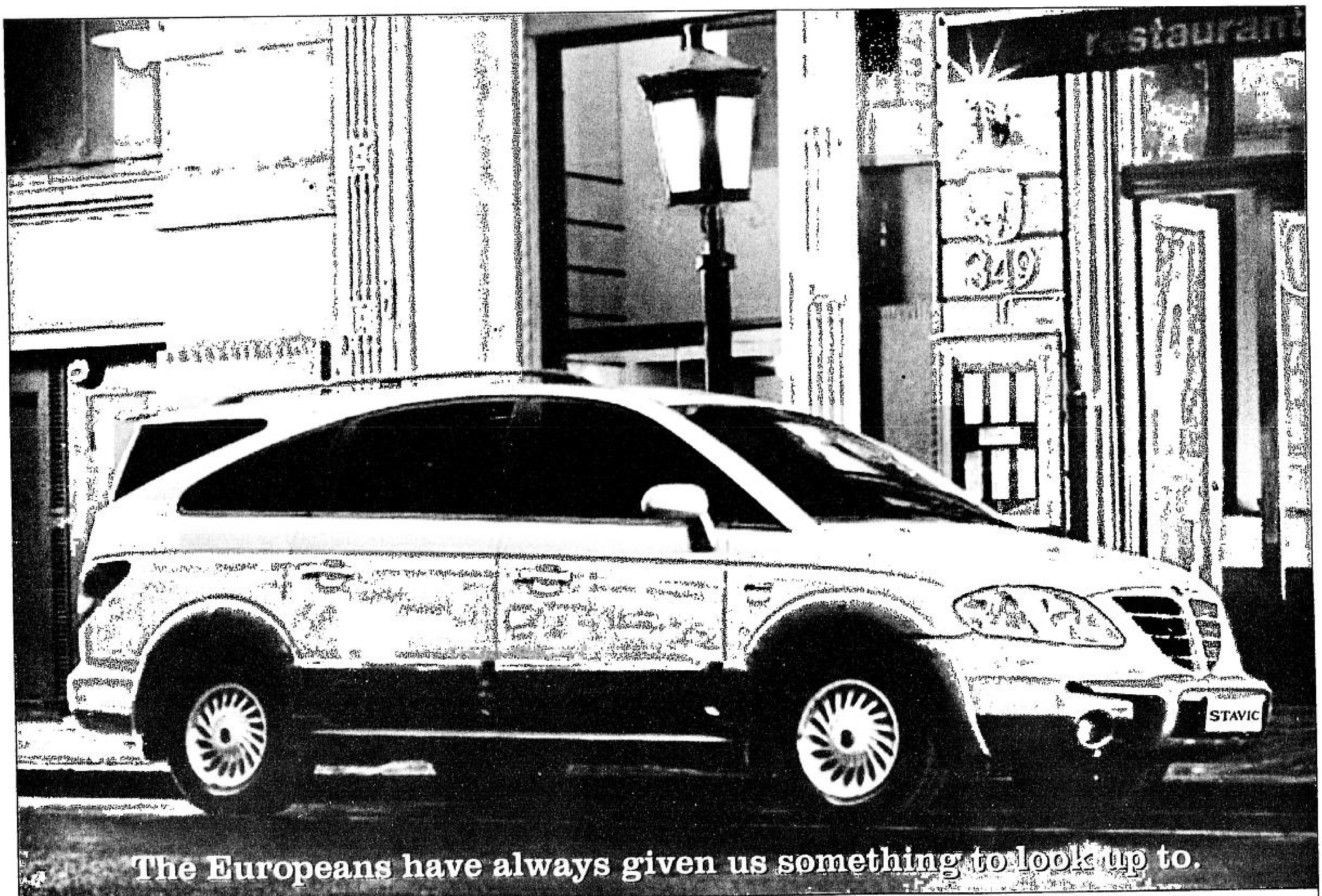

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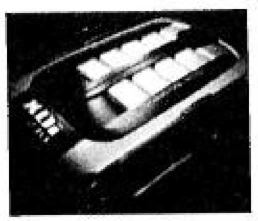
Double Wishbone Front Suspension

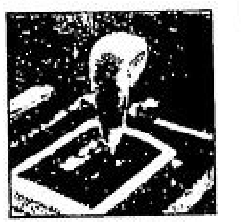
10-Link Rear Suspension

It's distinct features are vehicle stability, steering control and excellent riding comfort. These are standard features in all Stavic models similar to other European SUVs and luxury vehicles



XDi engine

The 3rd generation common rail diesel injected XDi 270 engine delivers 165 hp at 4000 rpm with a torque range of 1,800 - 3,200, delivering a smooth, quiet and fuel-efficient ride.



T-tronic Transmission

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Richard and Ermina Lai with daughters Stephanie, Shangika and Shavonne

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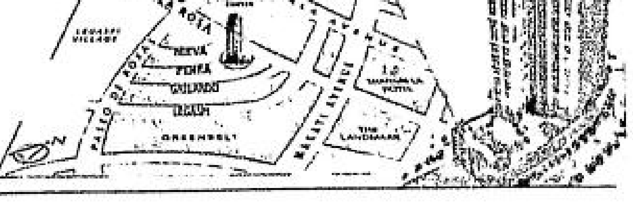

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BUSINESS*Friday*

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

THE BLACK SHOP has added office uniforms to its product list.

Increase sales without opening more shops

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

PUTTING up more shops may not always be the best way to grow a business. So if you cannot add new outlets, how do you increase sales?

Model-turned-entrepreneur Tina Maristela-Ocampo faced these questions recently after reviewing the sales performance of The Black Shop, a clothes shop Ocampo set up 15 years ago to cater to the needs of working women.

Currently with eight branches, The Black Shop is faced with less sales and higher costs. She admits she is even thinking of closing one of her outlets that is not doing so well.

The performance of this shop made her realize her market was not found just anywhere. Thus, if she can't add more branches, she has to find a way to increase the sales of existing outlets.

But how do you do this now when fewer people seem to be on a spending mood? Her customers provided her the answer.

Over the past few years, The Black Shop have been getting inquiries on the possibility of producing the same clothes for a department of a company with 10-30 staff members.

This prompted Ocampo to think of reviving a business she went into 10 years ago—doing office uniforms. It was, she recalls, a good business, albeit a very stressful and tedious one.

Revival

She decided to revisit the idea, but modified her scheme.

In the past, she had to create a line of designs, present these to offices, show them cloth swatches, measure each employee, then produce the uniforms.

When she went back to the uniform business three months ago, she made her shops her marketing centers—providing them with a kit the Black Shop can give to regular clients.

Instead of going to the companies, Ocampo and her employees invited the companies to her shops.

"We would invite the HR people of companies, or those who select the uniforms, cater food to them, make them feel special while they choose the designs and colors they want," says Ocampo.

"They find it enjoyable because they are actually shopping for their colleagues," she adds.

Those who are interested in purchasing uniforms are also shown the advance collection of suits and blouses they can choose from.

She says business is doing well, so far. And she did what she set out to do, increase sales from existing shops.

"These days you have to go to your customers. You can't wait for openings hours or for customers to drop by," she points out, adding that the political turmoil has affected sales.

To address the increase in the cost of materials, Ocampo recently came up with a new line—The Black Shop White Collection. This line is more expensive than The Black Shop collection by an average of P500 a piece.

When she launched it several months ago, Ocampo feared it would affect her sales. To her surprise, her new line did not bring down sales. She realized many of her old clients have gone higher up the corporate ladder and have greater purchasing power.

Bigger sizes

At the same time, she also came up with bigger sizes to address the needs of many working women. But Ocampo only orders big sizes of particular designs that will look good on big women.

She avoids coming up with large sizes for styles that would best suit smaller-sized women.

Ocampo says The Black Shop is competitively priced because it sources the bulk of its materials from China, where almost everything comes cheap.

She notes that the Filipina is not very adventurous when it comes to her office clothes. The best selling colors remain the same—black, grey, camel, beige and white.

"Pastels sell once in a while. People still go for the classic lines. It is a challenge for me to find the element that will make it different."

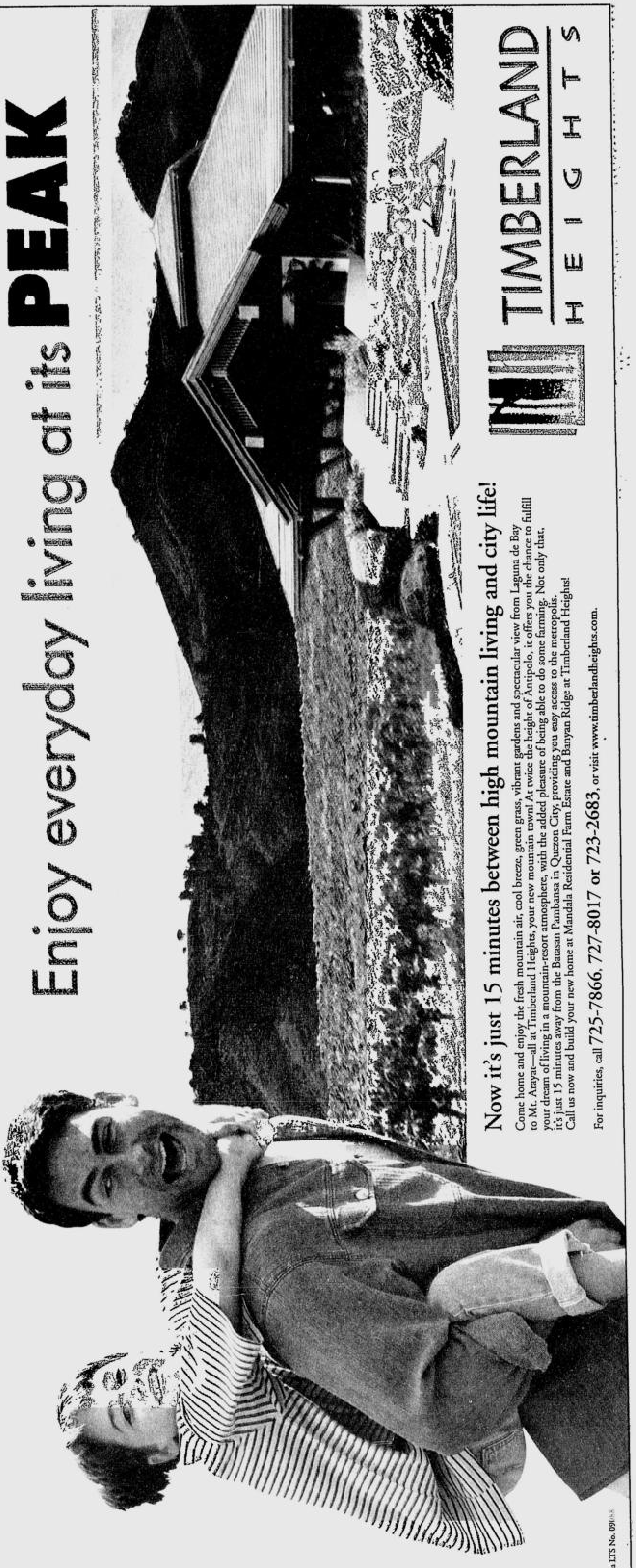
However, she says she comes up with a "fun collection" every three months.

She also observes that Filipinos have dressed down. Few wear suits except the top executives. But for the regular office worker, it's slacks or skirts with long-sleeved tops.

"It's a sign of the times," she says.

But she says she learned that these days, unlike in the past, "customers teach you what to produce."

Listen to their advice, and sales will likely grow, as Ocampo learned.



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Firms engaged in corporate giveaways thrive

By Anne Luisa E. Villarico

CORPORATE giveaways have become a multi-purpose tool that is a token of gratitude, an instrument to gain customer loyalty, a means to boost sales and widen corporate brand visibility, what with the company logo splashed on the products.

The market for corporate giveaways remains a robust one despite the turmoil the country faces. The industry can hardly cope with the volume of orders during peak seasons like Christmas.

This is why the Corporate World 2005 expo, which comprises the 18th Corporate Giveaways and the 2nd Corporate Solutions trade shows, is held as early as July—so corporate buyers can make their choices and book their orders months in advance.

The exhibit was held at the World Trade Center last July 14-16 and was organized by WorldExco.

This year's event attracted various exhibitors from the small- and medium-enterprises to large companies and has benefited both the corporate buyers and the exhibitors because it provided a one-stop shop for purchasing managers.

The exhibitors say it is a key factor in the growth of their company as it gives their business exposure.

Xian International

One entrepreneur who gained so much from Corporate Giveaways is Ramon Sicat, president of Xian International Corp.

Xian specializes in importation, sales and distribution of corporate gift items.

The only way he markets his products is through the annual exhibit.

"I don't put up any ads, I don't have any sales force. We are just three in the office," Ramon says.

He says the business requires hardly any capital.

"When you get an order from a company, you ask for 50 percent down payment and you can use the down payment to fund the production of items."

He says his business also specializes in items he created and designed. One of it is the Folding Parol, a foldable lantern made of laminated natural paper or synthetic paper that can be sent by mail to friends abroad. The parol or lanterns come in three sizes and sells from P90 to P150.

MANELS gets orders of up to P2 million from the corporate giveaways exhibit

His other products include a mini pillow picture frame, D-I-Y (Do-It-Yourself) desk caddy, D-I-Y desk clocks, custom-made stuffed toys, and Ad Fix re-usable sticker bottle holders, mugs, printed glassware, ID neck straps and thermo mugs generate a lot of interest and repeat orders.

"The income that I generate from the exhibit is enough to last me for the year. After the show, [that's when] I receive inquiries."

Ramon used his experience as a premium buyer with his former company to start his corporate giveaways business in 1993. At first, he only did it part time because he was still in the construction industry building and selling buildings and houses at that time.

But when the real estate industry collapsed in 1997 because of the Asian crisis, he turned to corporate giveaways as his main line of business. This is his 11th year of joining the exhibit.

Craftsland

Victoria T. Jaime, manager of Craftsland, says the exhibit gives the convenience for both the suppliers and clients.

Victoria started manufacturing all kinds of bags 19 years ago when she was fresh out from college and has been a corporate giveaways exhibitor for the past 13 years.

"Not only do I meet new clients every year when I join this exhibit, but I also have a continued business relationship with my clients for the past 13 years," she says.

She also designs corporate bags for several international sports brands.

"I make the design for the customers and they make the improvements," Victoria says.

She says orders for her bags sells in season. Bags ordered for the Christmas season sells the most.

In the 19 years that Victoria has been in the business, she says she had met customers representing institutions, and different clubs that have continuously ordered from her.

She says she presents several choices of bags and fabrics to prospective clients for their choices.

Her husband resigned from his work six years ago to join her in managing the business.

"I pirated him because I can afford him now," she jokes.

Ad-Man Resources

Sonia C. Adrada, marketing manager of Ad-Man Resources Inc. says Corporate Giveaways is very instrumental in their business because that's the only time they get to personally meet their clients.

She says they just usually make business deals to their customers over the phone.

"We have a long list (of customers) that keep on ordering from us through the exhibit every year," she says.

RAMON Sicat's folding parol

The exhibit is also the time for their customers to look for their new products, so every year they try to introduce new designs.

Sonia's main line of business is glass etching. It started in 1987 through a partnership with another importer. That was when the market for corporate gifts was just starting in the country. After four years, Ad-Man decided to put up their own factory.

Sonia's business makes trophies and plaques. They also make desktop items made of glass and use other items like wood, metal or acrylic.

Some companies order products from them and send it to their offices abroad.

This is their 12th time joining the Corporate Giveaways exhibit.

Manels

As the chair of one of the most successful companies in the country, Manny Siggaoat has several reasons for joining Corporate Giveaways.

"It gives the advertising value for our local stores."

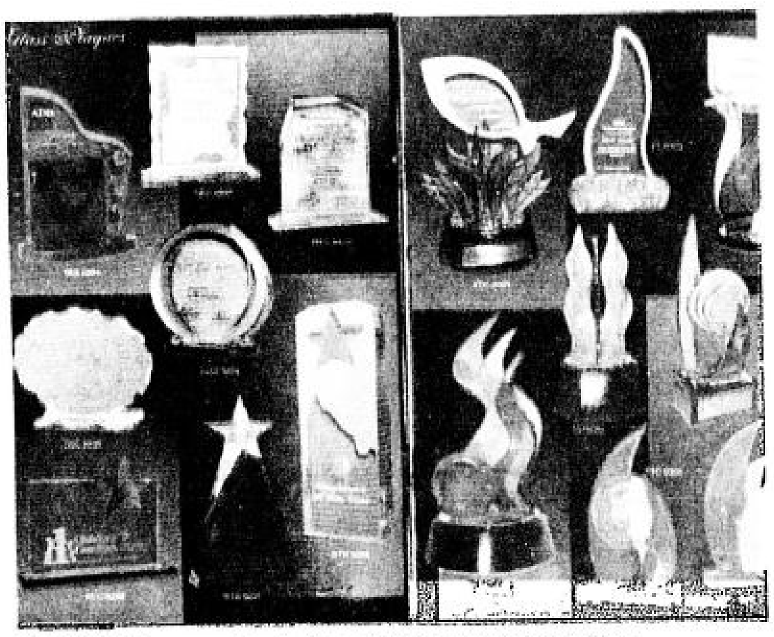
Manny is the chair of Manels, the popular leather goods store that is also in convenience store operations and baked goods.

Manels has been supplying the market even before the corporate show as it has been in the industry for more than 30 years.

Manny says they generate up to P2 million in sales orders coming from the exhibit alone. He says the corporate show attracts top corporations and the company gets a lot of orders from pharmaceutical companies.

But Manny says the downside of the show is that the buyers will have plenty of exhibitors to choose from.

Corporate Giveaways is the country's longest-running buyers' show on business gifts, premiums, promotional ideas, advertising specialties and merchandise incentives; while Corporate Solutions is a complementary showcase of the latest marketing support services, business solutions, office equipment, furniture, interiors, and supplies.



AD-MAN Resources' main line of business is glass etching.

PNB TOPS BSP STAKEHOLDERS AWARDS

The Philippine National Bank was honored by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas as the Commercial Bank of the Year on OFW Remittances for 2005. The distinction was the highest award given in the first ever BSP Awarding of Stakeholders, which also issued commendations to banking institutions that have done well in reporting the developments of their OFW Remittance businesses to the BSP. The award was personally handed out by newly installed BSP Governor Amando M. Tetangco, Jr.

PNB's award affirmed the Bank's continued market leadership in the OFW remittance business and substantiated its claim as the bank of choice among Global Filipinos.

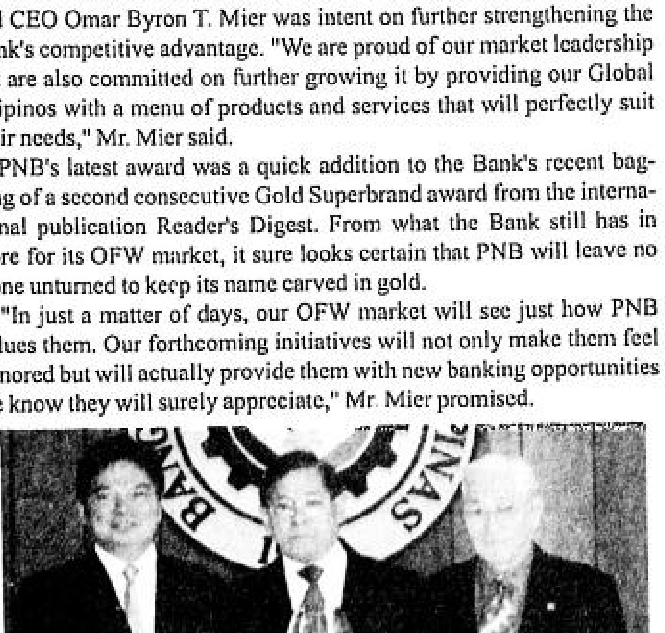
Members of the BSP judging panel were said to have been impressed with PNB's having cornered the lion's share among local commercial banks all throughout the five-year coverage of the competition's OFW remittance performance reviews. For many years now, PNB has established itself as the undisputed leader in servicing the remittances of Filipinos all over the globe. In 2004 alone, the Bank was able to service some US$2.4 billion in overseas remittances capturing almost a third of the all remittance businesses coursed through the country's banks.

PNB is the Philippines' most global bank having a total of 324 branches nationwide and 97 overseas offices and branches worldwide.

While elated with the award that the Bank received, PNB President and CEO Omar Byron T. Mier was intent on further strengthening the Bank's competitive advantage. "We are proud of our market leadership but are also committed on further growing it by providing our Global Filipinos with a menu of products and services that will perfectly suit their needs," Mr. Mier said.

PNB's latest award was a quick addition to the Bank's recent bagging of a second consecutive Gold Superbrand award from the international publication Reader's Digest. From what the Bank still has in store for its OFW market, it sure looks certain that PNB will leave no stone unturned to keep its name carved in gold.

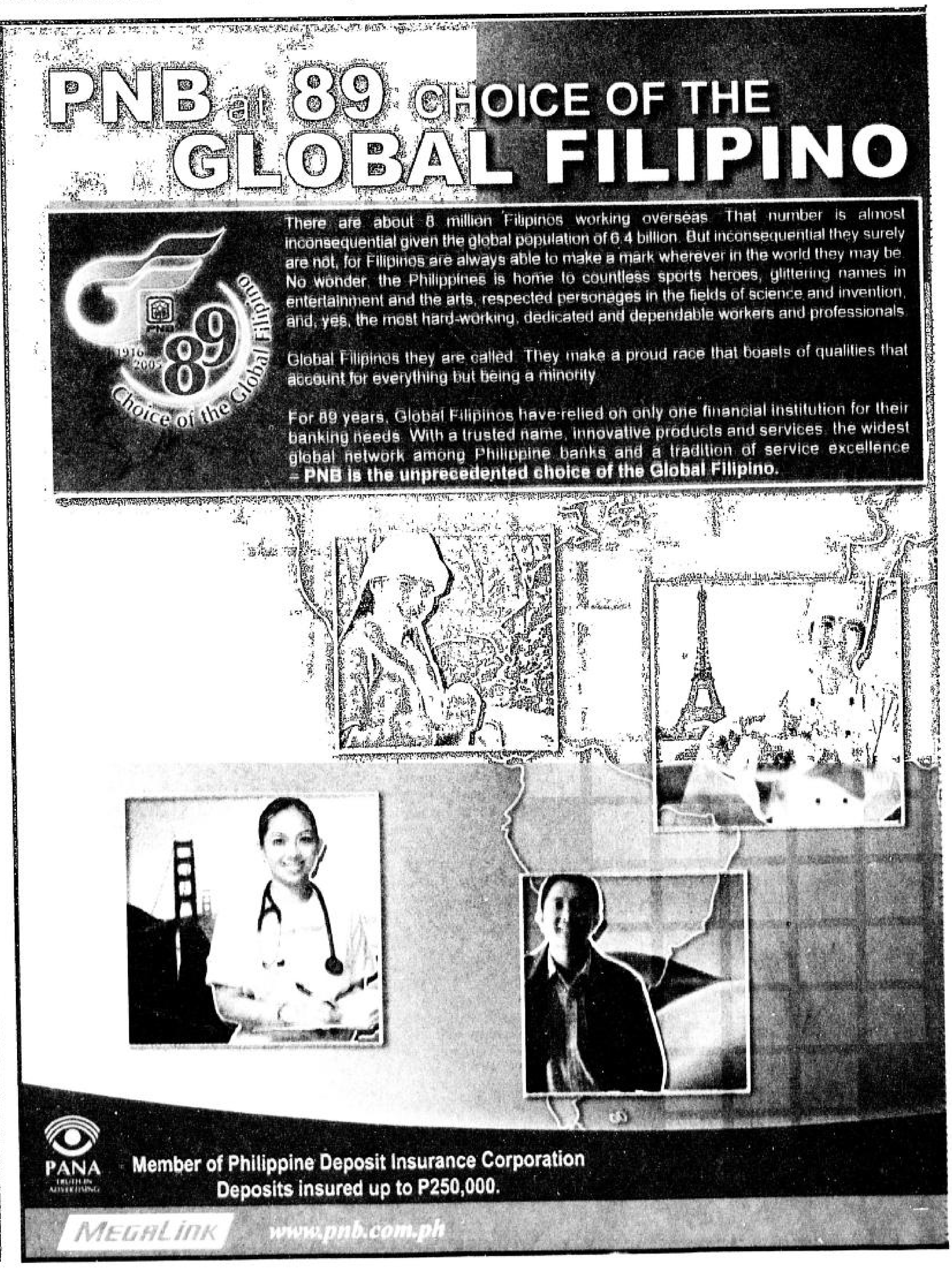
"In just a matter of days, our OFW market will see just how PNB values them. Our forthcoming initiatives will not only make them feel honored but will actually provide them with new banking opportunities we know they will surely appreciate," Mr. Mier promised.



PNB is Commercial Bank of the Year for OFW Remittances in 1st BSP Stakeholders' Award

The Philippine National Bank won the Commercial Bank of the Year for Highest Reported OFW Remittances given in the 1st Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Award in ceremonies held at the BSP Head Office in Manila. The award affirms PNB's continued market leadership in the OFW remittance business and substantiates its claim as the bank of choice among Global Filipinos. PNB has 97 overseas branches and remittance centers worldwide. PNB President & CEO Omar Byron T. Mier (center) receives the award on behalf of the 89-year old pillar of the Philippine economy. With him are BSP Governor Amando Tetangco, Jr. (left) and Monetary Board Member and Chairman of the Board of Judges for the 2005 BSP Stakeholders' Award Raul A. Boncan.

ADVT



PNB at 89 CHOICE OF THE GLOBAL FILIPINO

There are about 8 million Filipinos working overseas. That number is almost inconsequential given the global population of 6.4 billion. But inconsequential they surely are not, for Filipinos are always able to make a mark wherever in the world they may be. No wonder, the Philippines is home to countless sports heroes, glittering names in entertainment and the arts, respected personages in the fields of science and invention, and, yes, the most hard-working, dedicated and dependable workers and professionals.

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This developed with the recent signing of a partnership agreement between Blue Horizons and FCm Travel Solutions, the first AsiaPacific-based global corporate travel and expense management specialist.

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Through Blue Horizons' nine offices nationwide and its team of local travel specialists, FCm Travel Solutions will offer local companies such services and solutions as advanced management reporting and analysis, independent travel advice, fingertip travel information, frequent flyer management, a global hotel program, total travel fulfillment (visas, passports, insurance, airport transfers, etc.) and services for the meetings, incentives, conferences and events sector.

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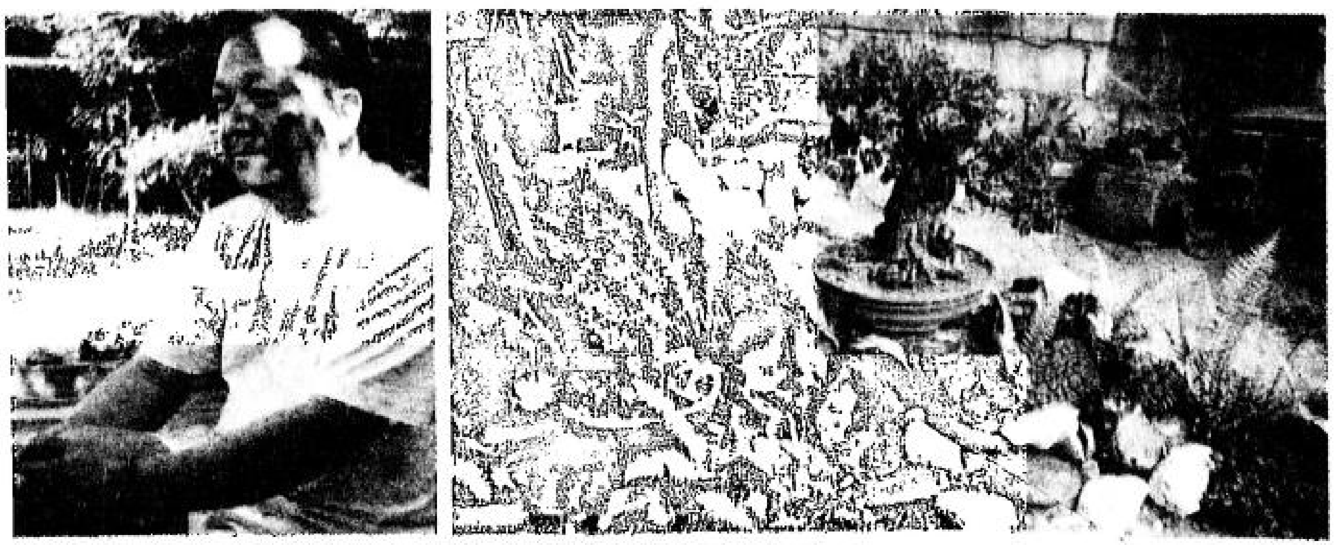
FCm Travel Solution's focus and capabilities extend far beyond the services of a travel agency. Taking a macro approach to the management of every aspect of business travel, FCm Travel Solutions gives corporate and individual clients more time to focus on profit-generating activities.

"We think strategically and plan ahead to save our clients time and money, month after month," said FCm Travel Solutions' Asia director Joseph Kao.

"But our real point of difference in the Philippine travel industry is our people and culture. Our people are encouraged to generate results for their clients within our unique culture of performance recognition, continuous improvement and accountability.

Tarlac artist turns stone to cash

By Russell Arador
PDI Central Luzon Desk



JOHN Guiang takes pride in his stone products (right)

PHOTOS BY RUSSELL ARADOR

TARLAC CITY—John Guiang, 38, was on a bus bound for Pangasinan when he noticed a fellow passenger reading a newspaper article about a stone collector.

He bought a copy of the newspaper as soon as he got off the bus, and placed a long-distance call to the collector.

The woman on the other end of the line sounded skeptical after he told her he had a collection of "picture" and "modified" stones to sell, Guiang recalled.

Japanese art

Very few people are aware that this government employee from Tarlac City has, for seven years now, been tinkering with an art form known as Suiseki, or the Japanese art of stone appreciation.

"So the collector came to visit my house, saw my work, was impressed and started buying them. She must have bought about 30 pieces of the best ones," he said.

The purchases, however, were made on the condition that his identity as the artist behind the stones would remain a tightly guarded secret.

"I was disappointed, but I agreed to the condition, just the same, because I wanted to see my creations get sold," Guiang said.

"Ghost artist" was how he described himself under that arrangement.

Then, the collector disappeared.

"She stopped answering my text messages and my phone calls. She also stopped going to my house and buying my stuff," Guiang said.

When they met in an exhibit in Metro Manila years later, the collector acted as if she didn't know Guiang.

But Guiang's experience with the collector was only the first of many instances where he would find himself on the verge of breaking into the lucrative world of stone art collection and trading—only to end up disappointed.

A few months ago, for example, he met, on two separate occasions, a doctor and a stone collector from Nueva Ecija.

As is often the case, he gave these people samples of his artwork in exchange for referrals.

After getting a substantial quantity of Guiang's stone art collections, though, they did not bother to make the agreed upon recommendations but, to his dismay, even refused to divulge his name to those who were impressed enough to ask for it.

Like the woman collector from Metro Manila, the doctor did not answer his text messages or calls.

"This is a relatively new art form, therefore competition is tough. But I'm not afraid to compete. No matter how long it will take for me and my art works to get recognized," Guiang said.

Appreciating stones

Guiang started to appreciate stones in 1993 when he went nature tripping in Mayantoc town, the "Little Baguio of Tarlac," 33 kilometers from this city.

He was walking along the river when he saw a piece of rock bearing the image of a mother and a child.

Because the image had been placed on the stone's surface by nature itself, it is called a picture stone, he said.

On the hand other, if the image on the stone had been altered, even slightly, by an artist's hand, it is known as a "modified stone."

"I was surprised to discover that these stones, which we take for granted, actually hold secrets," he said.

It suddenly dawned on him that from a pile of stones, a rare few would want their secrets revealed.

Therein lies the art, he said.

He then started collecting stones that took his fancy.

At first, he was content to simply collect picture stones. But it came to a point where he felt he should start to modify them.

There are viewers who are not sensitive enough to understand what the stone is trying to express, he said.

One way to make stone appreciation easier on such people, he said, is to modify the stone to bring out the image.

"If a viewer could not decipher the images in the stone, I would modify that piece to highlight the stone's image," he said.

Skilled woodcarver

Thus, armed with only a few home-made tools, like chisel, hammer and a small pick, he set about to smooth out an edge here and a surface there. But he made as little modifications on the stones as possible.

A skilled woodcarver, Guiang himself makes the wooden stands on which his stone collections are mounted.

"I make sure that the stand would complement the stone," he said.

Guiang also sold items to walk-in customers, most of whom were foreigners or overseas workers who wanted to give their Chinese, Japanese, Korean, British or American employers a unique present from the Philippines.

He never advertised his work. Buyers learned about them only through referrals.

He didn't even know he was performing Suiseki, he said.

He knew there was a big opportunity out there for him and his creations, but he couldn't figure out how big the market was.

Despite the odds, though, Guiang has managed to join exhibits once in a while.

In one exhibit, he brought nine items but exhibited only two. He sold both.

But more important than getting a couple of items sold, he learned why the woman-collector he met years ago insisted on keeping his identity a secret.

"There's a lot of money in it. Items are sold for as high as P20,000 to P30,000 apiece," he said.

Yet, while he knew how much money he could make from his art, his hopes have remained modest.

"I just want my work to be appreciated, someday. In fact, I would be happy when I see my work displayed in a rack used as background in television shows," he said.

Once business starts to pick up, he said, he would work full time as an artist.

"If I'm in the mood, I can highlight a figure in 10 minutes. I can finish three items in a day. I see an image once I look at a stone," he said.

But he only gets to indulge in his art during Saturdays and Sundays, as he has to work at the Department of Justice during weekdays.

He said sales from his pieces contributed to his family's income.

"But you have to wait for at least two months for a piece to be sold. I don't have connections. I'm based in the province and I would deliver the pieces to Manila," Guiang said.

But he has not lost heart. As long as there are stones out there, Guiang intends to remain in business.

Marketing Rx

From page B2-3

ical and truer determinant is the facilitator. For an FGD study aimed at consumer insight generation, you should get the appropriate and qualified facilitator. Among the FGD facilitators around, the one who stands above her peers in having the experience and track record in leading creative insight-generating FGDs is Issa Baron. She has a record of many "home-runs" but her biggest was in uncovering for pHCare, the true driver and motivator in feminine wash usage.

Discovering consumer insights for brand opportunities is just one of the purposes for FGDs although this has become its preeminent purpose and strength. There are two other functions that FGDs are good at.

One of these is generating specific pertinent items for a quantitative market research such as in the UAI (Usage-Attitude-Image) study. This is particularly true with the UAI's image portion where you have to provide a list of product attributes or values that consumers will be asked to rank in priority importance and against which to rate different competing brands including your own.

FGDs are good for...

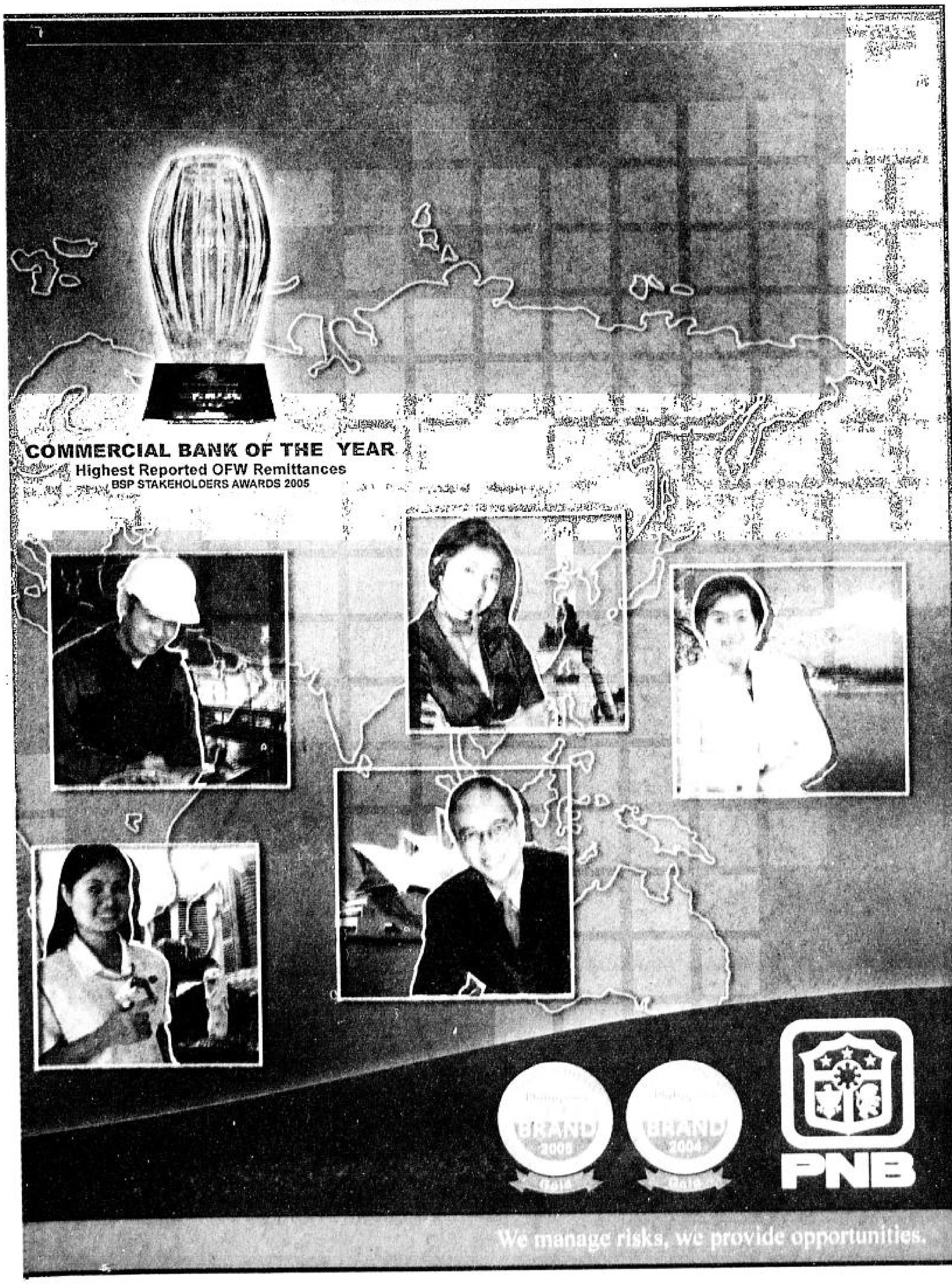
We've found FGDs in the hands of the qualified facilitator to be excellent in getting at the consumers' putting a dimension or category to those attributes. For example, consider the attribute, "clean" in toilet soap. FGDs have found that consumers have categorized this attribute into 3-4 types: the germ-free clean, the pure clean, the fragrant clean and the fresh clean. Marketing 101 tells us that once consumers have categorized a "parent" attribute, that attribute ceases to be a motivator. It is each of its dimensions that now take over as motivator for a segment. This is of course provided there's still no brand that has succeeded in owning the dimension. Safeguard has. It was able to own the "germ-free clean" dimension.

The second other purpose where FGD is good at is in explaining certain unexplained findings of a quantitative market research. For example, the quantitative UAI will profile for you WHAT is going on in brand awareness, category and brand usage and purchases, brand attitudes and images. Quantitatives are a "what" expert. If you did not probe WHY consumers are using your product in a certain way or why they position your brand different from your positioning of it, you won't know the explanation. To find out the "why" of a "what-finding" in a quantitative study, we either re-interview (via an IDI or in-depth interviews) those respondents who were the sources of the finding or put them in 2-3 FGD groups. Notice though that respondent recruitment here is from the quantitative survey respondents and specifically those who gave the answers that form the basis for the to-be-explained finding. Notice another important research concept here: an FGD can be done and can help AFTER a quanti. It's not true then that a qualitative always comes first before a quantitative.

This settles what FGDs are good at. What about the things they cannot do? FGDs are not qualified in telling you the "best" ad copy among several ones, the "best" positioning between A versus B, the "best" package among three studies, and the like. To get at the best, you need a ratio or a metric of the best. FGDs do not yield numbers and ratios. They are not scientifically equipped to do so because they violate a good number of statistic requirements for valid ratio generation and significance testing. That has not of course stopped many FGD users from forcing a "quantification" of FGDs.

The appropriate step to take is to quantify an FGD finding that you are unsure about regarding its percent prevalence in your target consumer population. Quantifying is the task of a quantitative survey. An FGD is a qualitative research method giving qualitative results. Whether an FGD result is a 5 percent or a 95 percent truth is not for an FGD to tell you. It's a quantitative study that will help you say so.

(Keep your questions coming. Send them to us at MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net or text us at 0919-314-5412. God bless!)



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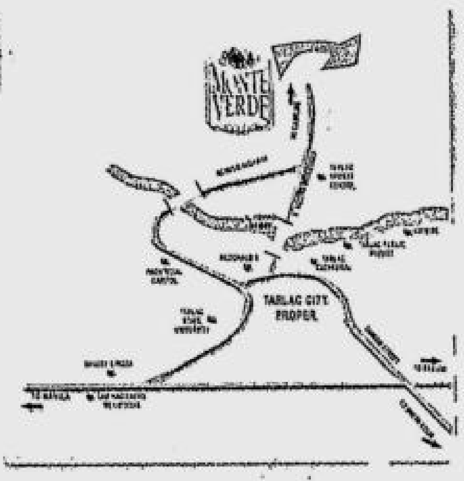

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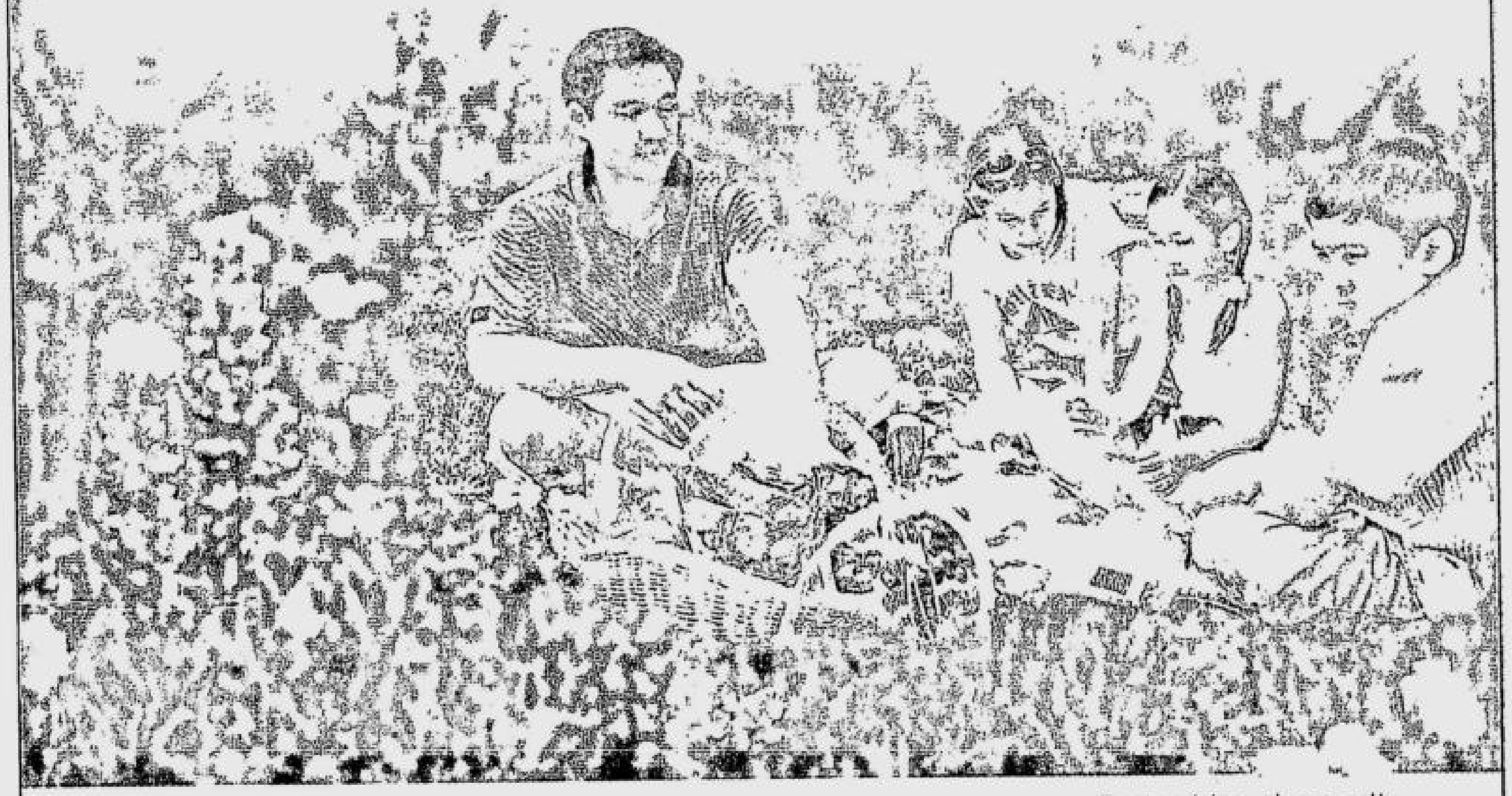

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What can FGDs really do to understand consumers and brands?

MARKETING Rx

Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

Q: WE RECENTLY conducted FGDs (focus group discussions) to understand our brand and its competitors. We had five groups, each representing users of the five brands we wanted to understand. Most of the things that came out of the five FGDs, we already knew and there were really no new insights that came out. So we were wondering—was it necessary for us to do five or could we have achieved our objective with just one group? What can we really expect of FGDs?

A: We could have been very specific to your case with our diagnosis if you had told us at least these three things: (1) What the FGD discussion guide looked like: what it covered, how it covered the topics, and how it instructed the discussion proper should be started; (2) Who the FGD facilitator was: her experience as facilitator and her track record in leading creative insight-generating FGDs. (3) Some hints about what the specific findings were like: some of those things that you say you "already knew," and those you regarded as "really no new insights." There are other items we would have also wanted to know like who recruited the FGD respondents, who were recruited, and how the recruitment took place.

Even without these specifics, we are answering your questions because we've been asked about FGDs before and along similar concerns. So we now realize that there must be a good number of FGD users who are as unclear as you are about what FGDs can and cannot do for consumer insighting, and how it can be made more insight-productive.

More than one

Let's start with your question about the number of groups. The research industry still does not have a hard-and-fast rule on what's the "ideal" number. But we know what's the "no-no" number and that's one group. You need at least a second group to "validate" what you found in the first.

In his research shop's FGDs, the senior MRx-er follows the principle of "diminishing returns" in economics. As applied to FGD research, this concept tells you to do the following.

Recruit for 5-8 groups who are a "cross-section" of the target consumers you want to study. If your target consumers, for example, cut across male and female young adults, mature adults and post-mature adults, then you must have a group made up of male young adults, another who are female young adults, a third who are male mature adults, and so on. This tells you something about respondent recruitment. That's not about "representativeness." That's a criterion for quantitative studies. FGD is qualitative and in the case of insighting, you need respondents who are ready to speak up and expose their opinions to the evaluation of others in the group. A "representative" sample will get you 7-8 out of ten who are "deadwoods" (or most of the time, quiet) and 2-3 who will "duopolize" or "triopolize" the discussion. So make this your recruitment guideline in FGD respondent recruitment.

Then, as you discuss with one group to the next, count the number of "NEW" ideas or insights that you get from the first group. In the second group, you will notice that some ideas from the first group will be repeated and only a lesser number of NEW ones will come out. This can be as much as just half of the first group's. Then in the third group, the diminishing number of NEW ideas or insights will continue. By the fourth or fifth group, you will find that the number of NEW ideas has gotten to zero.

The law of diminishing returns says that this is the point where you've gotten the MAXIMUM number of new insights. That's time to stop. That's where you've reached the "ideal" number of groups.

This is actually the fundamental logic underlying the current practice of having 4-5 groups. It's a result that has been turned into the rule. But the true and operative rule should not be that result. Instead it should be the law of diminishing returns: "Go to as many groups as what will give you the maximum number of NEW consumer insights or ideas."

Getting new insights is of course not just a function of the number of groups. The more crit-

MARKETING RX/ B2-2

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Michelis is top silver brand

MICHELIS Gifts and Jewellery, the country's top purveyor of sterling silver accessories, was proclaimed the Outstanding Jewellery Brand in this year's Asia-Pacific Excellence Awards recently.

The Asia-Pacific Excellence Awards, organized in 1993, honors outstanding consumer products, services, manufacturers and companies in the Asia-Pacific rim.

"For a Filipino jewellery brand to win this award signifies that the local jewellery industry is indeed capable of competing with the rest of the world's brands," says Alexandra Faustmann, marketing manager of Michelis. "It also reaffirms that Michelis clients have excellent taste."

The awards council conducts open public nomination yearly via random consumer survey and research.

LIFESTYLE

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Editor
Chelo Banal-Formoso

Wave of the future

Fresh from British training and American apprenticeship, Gian Romano shows the global promise of Pinoy fashion design

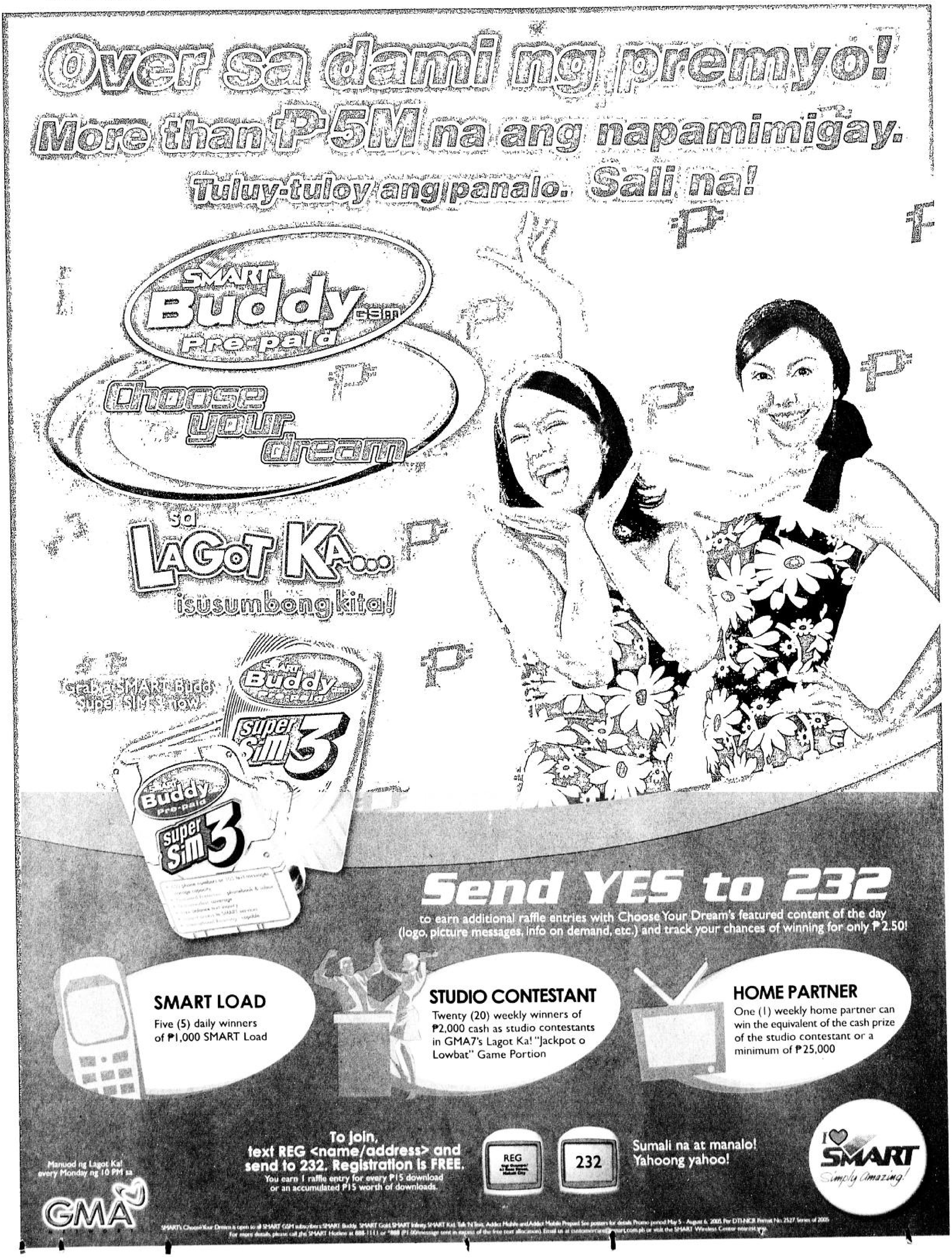
Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

LAST week, Gian Romano ticked off the fourth of his five-goal, five-year career plan: to stage a solo show. To his delight, he accomplished it much sooner than he imagined.

To a mixed crowd of fashion cognoscenti, diplomatic corps and shoppers at the Shangri-

WAVE/ C2

DRAPEY top of Swiss cotton (at far left) and its back detail



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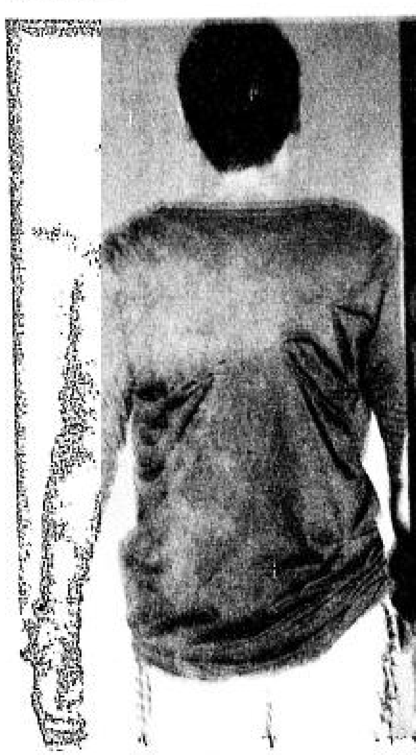

DETAIL of a man's tee

ZIPPERED cropped jacket and skinny pants

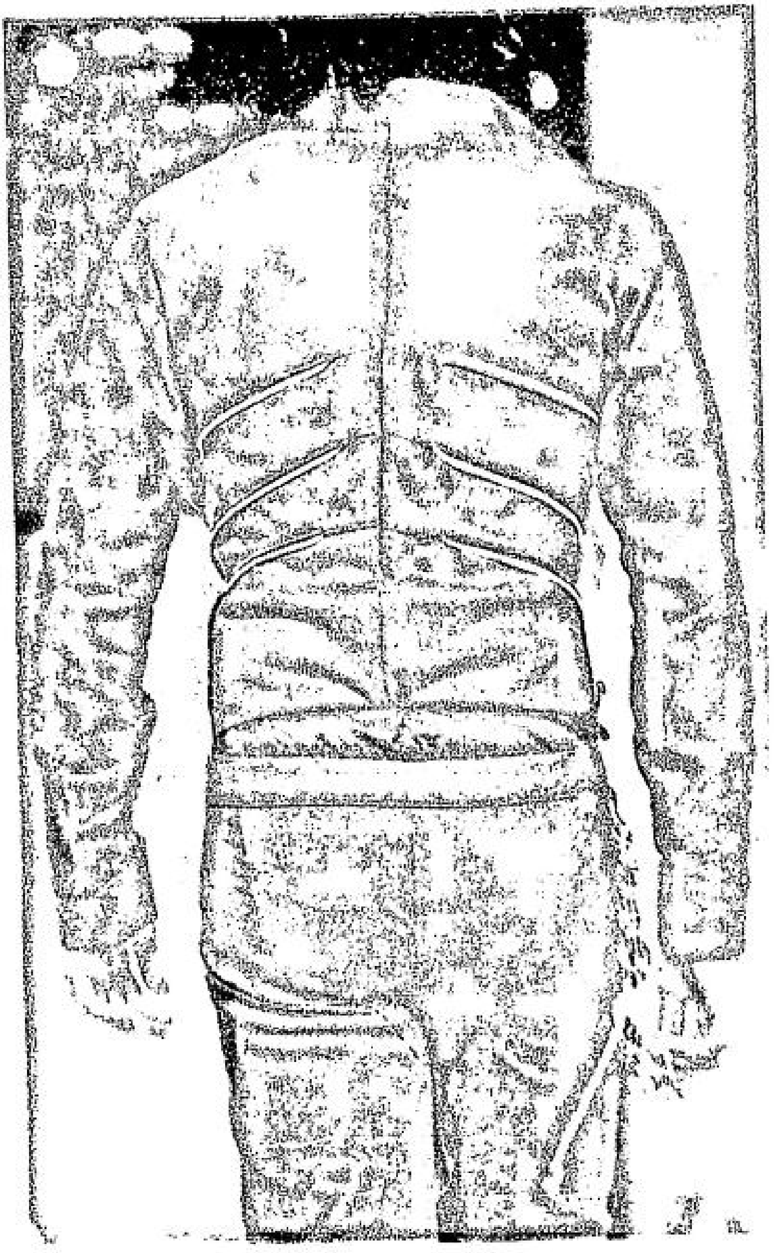
HOODED tee and unlined pinstripe jacket

TWILL jacket and motorcycle pants

INTRICATELY cut Swiss-cotton top

SLASHED sweater

Wave of the future


RIBCAGE-INSPIRED jacket and motorcycle pants

DRAPEY layered tops with unfinished hems and moth-eaten-like cutouts in black and purple (at right), and bottoms of tissue knit, sourced by the designer in London

From page C1

La Plaza Mall, a pleased (if bushed, he later says) Romano unveiled "No Wave," his 35-look collection. An ode to the likes of Paul Smith, who makes seemingly simple clothes but with exceptional details, the young designer says his collection may very well be called "New Britons."

Conceived to the music of Franz Ferdinand, Hot Hot Heat, Ratatat—"That's my process, the clothes already have a mood; there has to be music"—the collection consisted of pauper-ish tops with unevenly cut raw hemlines and moth-eaten-like holes, cropped jackets and some very complicated-looking, if figure-forgiving ("I don't like clothes that hug the body") drapey tops for the women.

His men's pieces had human-anatomy-inspired zippered jackets (piped, with no linings "because it's more practical in this heat," and the better to show off the immaculate construction) and pants cut with very low crotches "because men really want to wear their pants that way" but balk at showing their jockeys. There were also dog's-tooth-silk-screened pants and jackets.

He was swamped with orders soon after curtain call, a dazed Romano tells the INQUIRER four days later, that now, with only one sewer besides himself, he's faced with the challenge of producing all the orders.

No matter. "I guess you can say I've broken the curse," he quips.

Romano is, of course, referring to the blight that befell certain winners of the Mega Young Designers Competition before him: drifting to fashion oblivion quicker than one can cast off last season's look. The 23-year-old was last year's winner.

Romano vowed to seriously pursue a career in fashion after graduating from college three years ago.

Study abroad

Next on his list was to study abroad, which he did last year when he attended a short course in menswear design at the famed Central Saint Martins in London. It was his prize for winning the Mega tilt.

The young man's Saint Martins scholarship was given by the British Council in Manila, which also presented his homecoming show on Friday night.

Of course, it is too soon to say if the Iligan native truly has the muscle to sustain a career in the rag trade. But if his resolute speech is to be believed, it seems Romano is bent on steering clear of the common mistakes of many a young (or even old)—and naïve—designers.

"When I design, I always consider the commercial aspect of it. It doesn't matter if I only spent P100; it's still a waste if I create something that can't be worn or used," he says.

And he is only too willing to learn.

It was "*kapal ng mukha*," he says in jest, that scored him Goal No. 3, a six-month apprenticeship with the New York design group As Four, right after his London stint. Romano actually also applied with another outfit he admired, United Bamboo, and considered apprenticing with the Spanish Miguel Adrover, "but I didn't know where to reach him."

Romano says As Four was in the thick of putting together the F/W 2005-06 collection when he came in. He cut, sewed, cooked, walked the dog and reveled at learning new pattern-making techniques. "As Four has a unique way of doing patterns," he notes.

In Saint Martins, he was taught the importance of research. At As Four, he was pushed to confront his chief weakness: pattern draping. "We had a white board where the interns were given their assignments. Under my name, they always wrote 'DRAPE!' in bold letters!" he laughs. "I just prefer to cut flat, and they acknowledge that I do it well, even if they're somewhat bewildered. It was hard but I had to do it."

First solo

With his third goal accomplished, Romano came home in March to prepare for his first solo show at the behest of the British Council, which is celebrating its 25th year in the Philippines. The event at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall was a toast to "Filipino creativity and UK education," according to the council's Gill Westaway, and was largely a venue to promote UK education, an option that 20 percent of Filipinos studying overseas have already taken.

In fact, Romano says he and the UK-based Aklanon Lesley Mobo had planned to do a show together, but the senior designer encouraged Romano to do it alone. Mobo, 27, who earned his masters at Saint Martins, is a senior designer at the tony London department store Harrods. Last year, Mobo won the talent-support award from the denim label Diesel in Europe, a week after visiting the Philippines to be a judge in the contest won by Romano. Photos of his winning designs, dubbed Lesley Mobo by Diesel, were also on display at the venue.

"Now people are asking me what's my fifth plan. I don't know what to say to them," Romano says with a laugh. "I have two more years before my five-year deadline…" He has now taken in an intern.

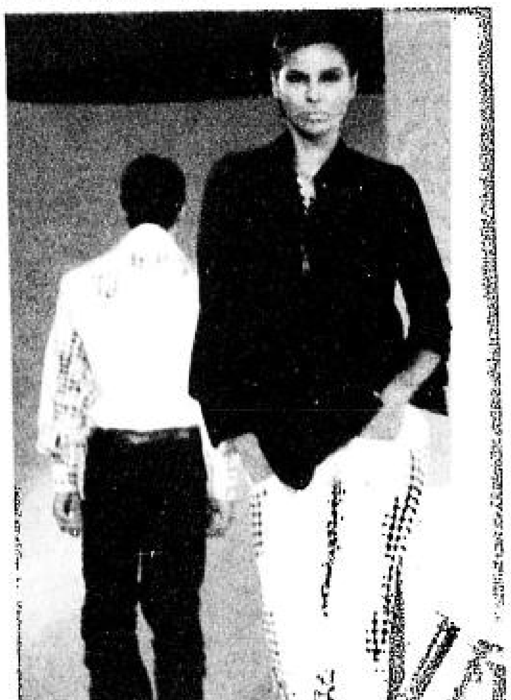
Romano says he's still entertaining his dream of making it abroad. "Lesley and I were talking and we felt it was [surreal] that we had the exact same dreams, [almost similar circumstances] and we were two different people…"

If Mobo offers him, Romano is more than willing to be his pattern maker. "Please write that!" he chuckles. But if he were given a chance, he would stick it out here and go "corporate" (fashion lingo for the big-business labels). "I'd like to revive a label like Tyler… But can I say that?"

His more immediate plan is to stage another show by yearend. "That's if I find sponsors. I'll call it 'Next Wave,' but I really have to do a lot of research on that… I'm in discussions with a fellow As Four intern, a Japanese-American; we want to do a show here together. We'll see."

E-mail the author at cmoral@inquirer.com.ph

PANT details—narrow for the woman, low-crotch for the man


HOUNDSTOOTH-SILKSCREENED pants and jacket

"PEOPLE wanted to know the gimmick for my show," says Romano. "What gimmick? It's just clothes!" He credits his friends Ignacio Loyola and Tina Daniac for helping him edit this collection. Twill shorts and jacket, and top with raw hem

PLAIN tunic jacket with belt

L.A. chic comes to Manila

LONG-SLEEVED blouse, Egyptian *kurta* (available in gray, blue and red)

CYNTHIA Vincent, a top California designer, has been making waves with clothes that are "feminine, hip and confident."

A product of the Otis Parsons School of Design, Vincent moved to London where she honed her craft before returning to California to set up her own design company. She first won the Silver Thimble Award from Ann Cole in 1988 and L.A.'s Rising Star Award 10 years later.

She launched her new line, Twelfth Street by Cynthia Vincent in 2003 at the L.A. Fashion Week to rave reviews. Twelfth Street has since become a favorite of celebrities and a top seller at upscale specialty stores across the US like Neiman Marcus, Fred Segal/Ron Herman, Barney's, Scoop and Bergdorf Goodman.

Cynthia fuses form, function and fabrication in her feminine designs. She makes the kind of clothes that she herself wants to wear. "We reach for what makes us feel sexy and it's that attitude, coupled with a desire for comfort that's inspired Twelfth Street."

Twelfth Street by Cynthia Vincent is available exclusively at MIX, Greenbelt 3 Mall, Ayala Center, Makati City.

SLEEVELESS V-neck beaded blouse

HALTER flowing dress with beaded neckline accent

SATIN long-sleeved open blouse with flower-embroidery accent

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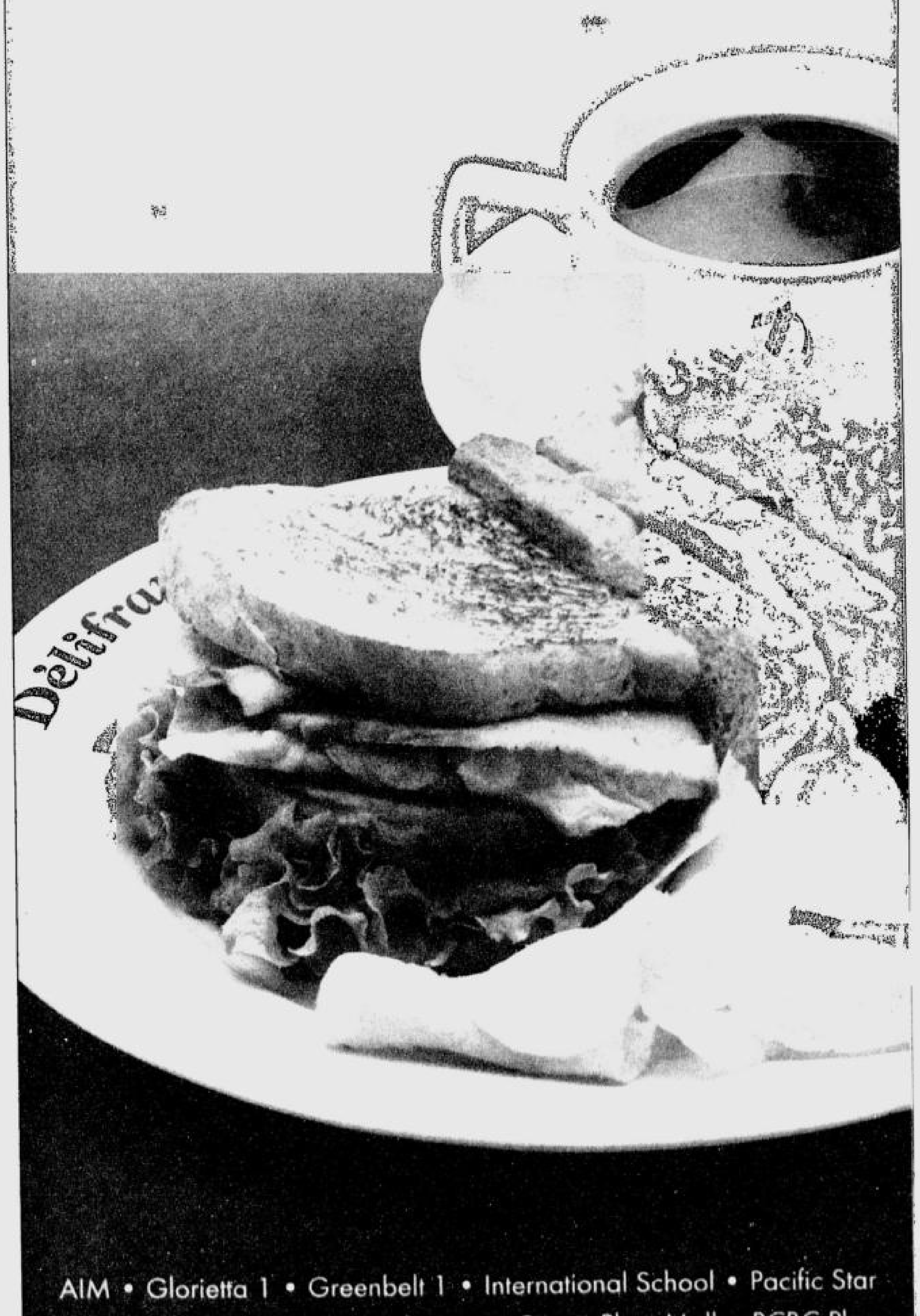

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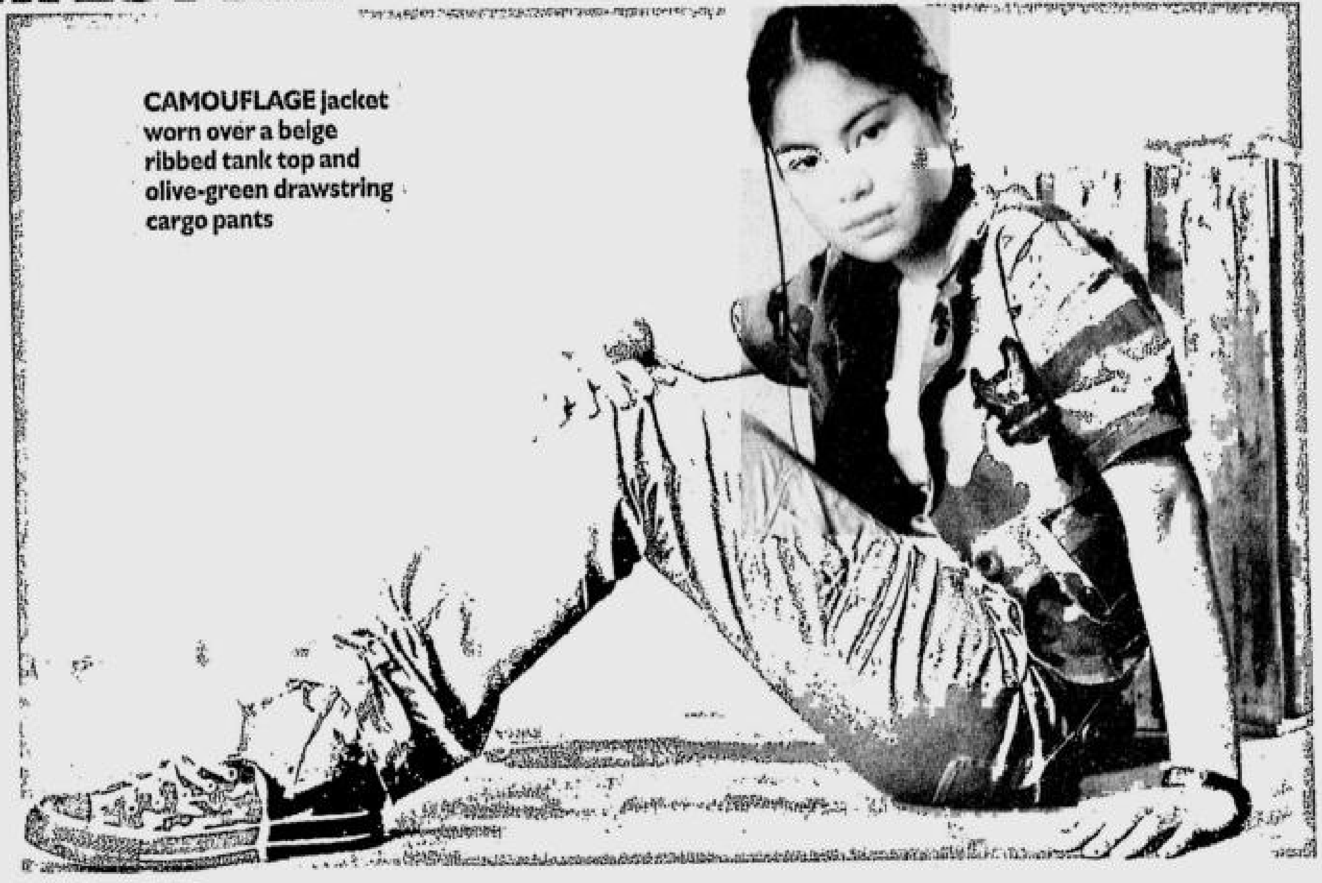
Code Cool

MILITARY TRACKING. Olive-green track jacket with ribbed hemline worn over ribbed tank top and khaki miniskirt

IT'S CODE Cool as military fashion marches from the barracks onto the streets at SM.

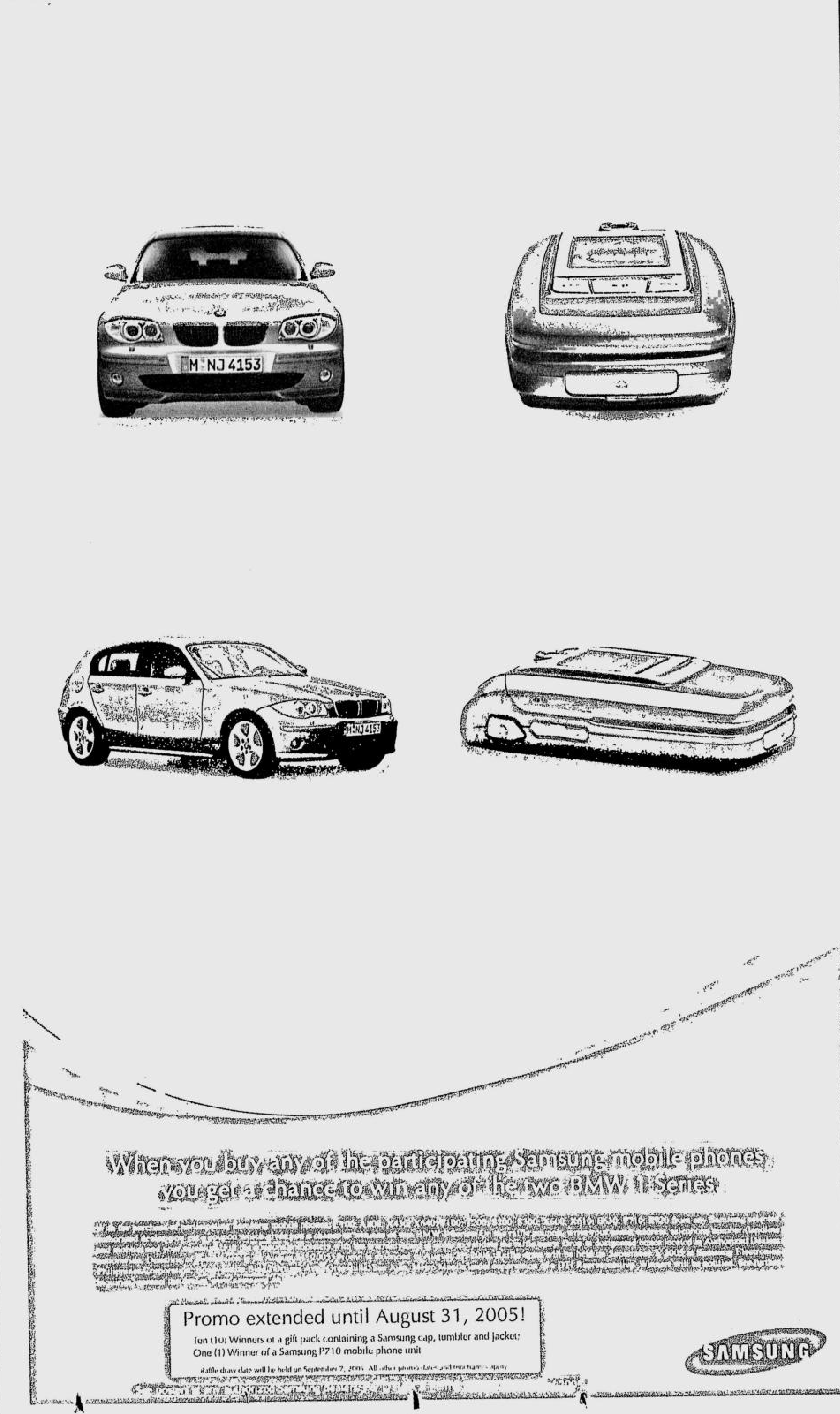
The style strategy is all about fatigue, olive drab, khaki and camouflage pieces updated for a fresh look. Attitude comes with cargo pockets, drawstring details, zips buckles and patchwork accents. For full military flair, mix and match tank tops, tees and cropped jackets with cargo pants and short skirts.

The military collection is available at the girls teen's wear department of all SM stores.



CAMOUFLAGE jacket worn over a beige ribbed tank top and olive-green drawstring cargo pants

MARCH IN STYLE. Fatigue US Army cropped jacket with chest pocket work over an orange Military Zone printed top and a khaki miniskirt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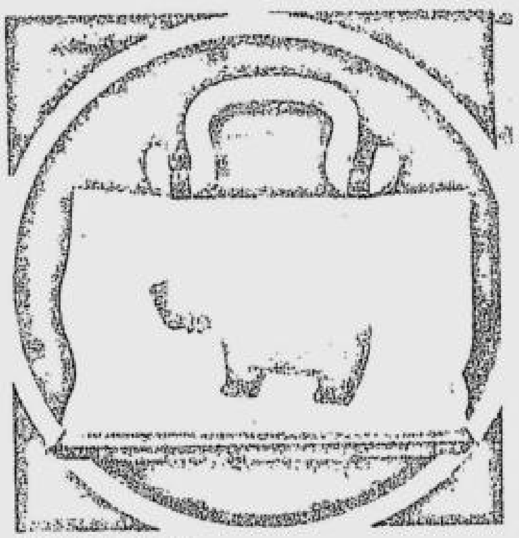

FUN and young

How to shop for a bag

"IF the bag can fit all your daily essentials, buy it," advises Cecily Mabasa, founder and designer of Whimsy bags.

Having been born into a family who has been manufacturing bags for 20 years now, the design and business of accessories comes naturally to Mabasa. She even studied accessories design in New York's Fashion Institute of Technology. She apprenticed with the house of Bally then worked for Coach.

Her fun yet elegant touch is evident in all of Whimsy's pieces: suede handbags, candy-colored totes, classic purses.

Here are some tips in buying a bag:

- Occasion. Where are you going to use the bag?
- Contents. What do you plan to carry in your bag?
- Compartments. "I would advise to check how many compartments a bag has," Mabasa says. "The more compartments, the better you can organize the contents of your bag."
- Cell phone pocket. A must nowadays—make sure a bag has one.
- Test-drive the bag. "If you're not sure that the things you can't live without can fit, try it," Mabasa says.
- Security. The practicality and material of the bag is just as important as its style.
- Have fun in shopping. "Choose a color you like," advises Mabasa. "Don't just stick to black. Explore! Have fun!"

Whimsy accepts requests for made-to-order bags. Whimsy is located at 2/L Glorietta 3, Ayala Center, Makati; Lifestyle Section, 2/L Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati. Call 0917-5315718.

FLIRTY and trendy

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Do you want to be a supermodel?

THE SEARCH is on for the next supermodel with the Ford Model's Supermodel of the World contest.

Aspiring models can get a shot at a one-year contract with CalCarries Philippines, and a round-trip ticket (with pocket money) to New York, to represent the Philippines in the Supermodel of the World finals. The winner of the world contest gets $250,000 worth of modeling contracts with the Ford modeling agency.

Former Ford supermodels include Jerry Hall, Stephanie Seymour and Rachel Hunter.

Blonde bombshell Jerry got her big break as the face of Opium by Yves Saint Laurent and Revlon cosmetics. It was also at around this time that she began her long-standing love affair with the Rolling Stones' Mick Jagger. While their marriage was officially annulled in 1999, the two remain friends and happy parents of three children.

Hunter landed on the covers of Vogue and Cosmopolitan when she was just 17. She is now an established top model, having graced Sports Illustrated's famous swimsuit issue several times. She has also been romantically linked to Rod Stewart, Mark McGrath and Bruce Willis.

Seymour began modeling at 14. After grabbing first place in the Elite Look of the Year contest in her hometown of San Diego, she moved to New York, where a Playboy spread did not turn out to be such a social suicide for her, as she later landed on the cover of British Vogue and became a favorite of designers on the catwalk. She then dated Axl Rose of Guns 'n' Roses and starred in a number of the heavy metal band's music videos. She became a favorite of Versace, Chanel and Victoria's Secret.

Another Ford model was Venezuelan beauty Patricia Velasquez who modeled for Dolce & Gabanna, Gaultier, Salvatore Ferragamo, and became Le Jaguar on screen. Her most memorable role was as the evil Egyptian queen in "The Mummy" and "The Mummy Returns."

Even Walt Disney darling Lindsay Lohan was a Ford Model. The "Freaky Friday" and "Mean Girls" star and budding socialite has appeared in over 60 television commercials. She, in fact, started modeling for Ford when she was three years old.

Call Runway Productions at 7533688, or apply online at www.supermodelphilippines.com or www.calcarries.com.

Screening dates are July 23 at the Marriott Hotel in Cebu, July 30 at the Sarabia Manor Hotel in Iloilo, July 31 at the Marco Polo Hotel in Davao, and Aug. 6 at Hotel InterContinental Manila.

IT girl and Hollywood star Lindsay Lohan came into the business through modeling, starting out at the tender age of 3.

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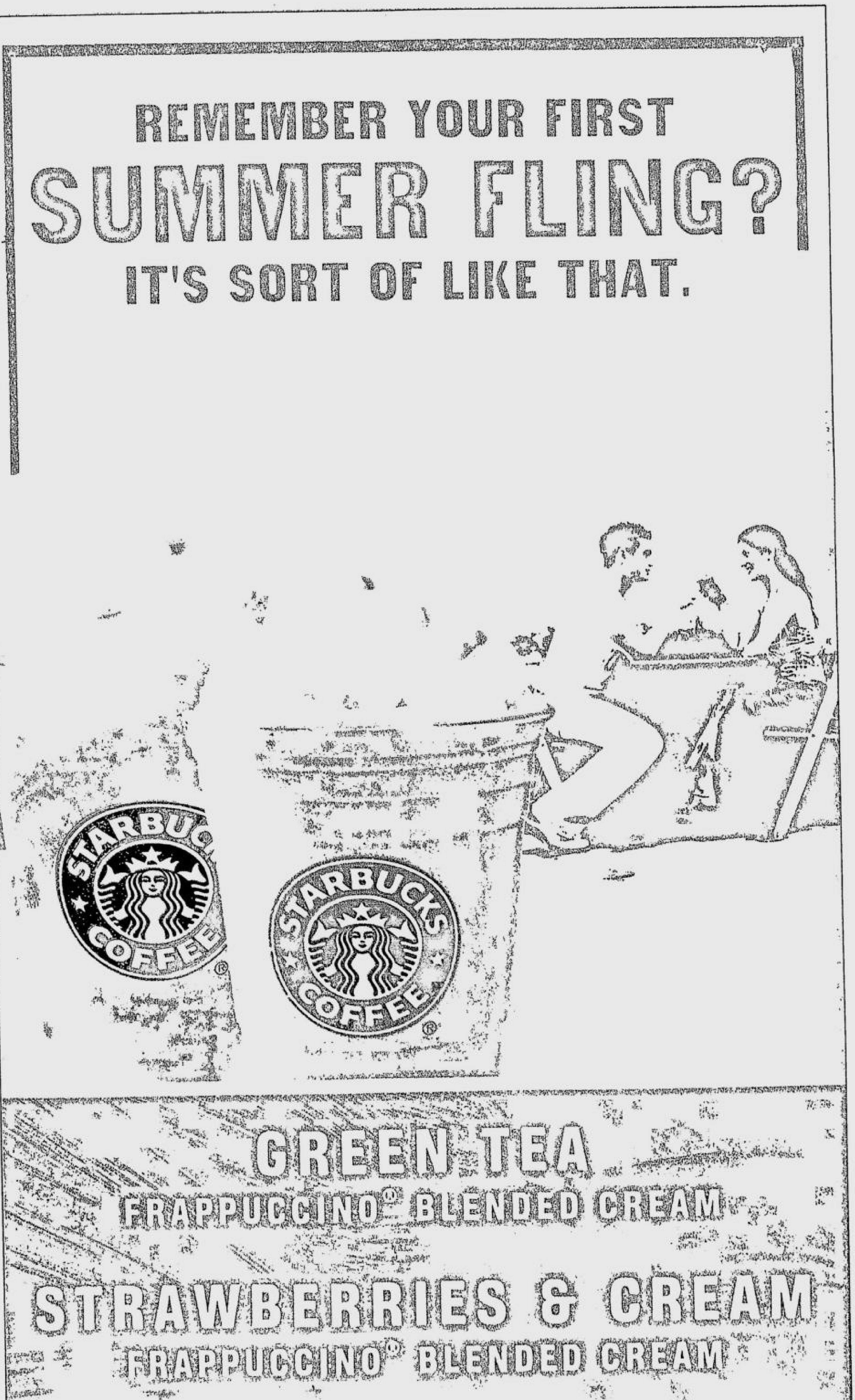
SUMMER HOLIDAY FASHION IDEAS
BEST BEAUTY

STEPHANIE Seymour

RACHEL Hunter



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EVO and Kris in a pink and white bra top from HerBench's new line. Shot in one of the narrow walkways of the island

YOU'LL be seeing gorgeous billboards and posters similar to this picture for Bench's latest undergarment line, all photographed on the island of Mykonos, Greece.

MOI with Kris A.'s personal makeup artist, the talented Bambi Fuentes

100% Human
Bench Idol

AT THE TERRACE of Semely Hotel Mykonos, Ben Chan and male models show off their Bench and Human T-shirts.

Feeling grand in the grandeur that is Greece

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

WE continue with our account of the Bench pictorial in Greece. On Mykonos island, before we could even have a breather, we spent the whole day doing the photo shoot of Bench super troupers, **Kris Aquino** and **Evo**, at different locations of the island.

While we were having dinner and it was still light, a good-looking hunk walked before us talking on his cell phone. **Miguel P.** and I spotted him instantly and told Kris, **Keren Pascual** and **Ben Chan** to check the guy out, which they did.

Kris coaxed several of us to go up to him and ask him to join us. **Keren agreed to do the job. Well, the hunk came, joined us and before you could even say, "Wow, he'd be great as a model," Ben asked him to join Kris and the two other male models for our last day at the popular beach resort, Paradise, located at the east side of the island. Jacob,**a 25-year-young half-Thai and half-Greek, became the third male model for the Bench billboard.

Fab four

Aprés a yummy breakfast at our hotel's terrace, we drove to the beach resort, and **Jun de Leon** went to work with Kris, Jacob, **Max** and Evo emoting right on the beach wearing Bench's latest underwear. The four of them were awesome, so much so that women and men sunbathing on the beach were taking photos of them as they modeled the clothes.

As we left that afternoon for Athens, I couldn't help but have a flashback on what Mykonos was like several years ago when I was there last. It was just a fishing village with lots of artists living on the island and a few tourists who went there to get away from the other more popular islands for the summer.

Well, today Mykonos is where the "in" crowd goes for suntan and swimming in the unpolluted crystal clear waters. Yachts of all shapes and sizes are docked along the shore line. Honeymooners jet there, such as **Mai Mai Cojuangco** and her husband, Italian heir, **Andrea Zini**. **Tessa Prieto** and her husband, southern gent **Dennis Valdes** , also spent days on the island after watching the Olympic Games in Athens last year. Business whiz and banker **Noel Oñate** and his wife, young socialite **Marianne Uy**, also had been there while cruising the Mediterranean. Yes, dahlings, Mykonos has become the playground of the rich, the beautiful, and everyone who enjoys the sun and the beach.

We spent our last night in Athens having a great dinner at one of the famous restaurants at the Plaka, and exploring the other streets and happening places as we walked back to our hotel.

Early the next day, most of us dashed off to shop, shop and shop some more as we had only until 12 noon before we had to catch our Gulf Airflight back to Manille.

Going to Athens used to be part of a "grand tour" for Europeans and tourists to see the awesome Greek ancient sites as part of their must-have classical background. But after last year's Olympic Games, Athens has come of age. There is a new breed of tourists who jets there to look at archaeological remains and to indulge in the city's nightlife. The Greeks really know how to have fun.

Our flight was delayed by an hour because of the strike of some members of the airport staff. We said our goodbyes to Keren, **Nicolette** and **Donna Cuna-Pita**, who did the fashion shoot and styling for Cosmo Magazine.

Flying back

On our flight back we sat in economy class, and it turned out to be so much fun sitting on the last seats at the far end of the jet with Kris; brilliant **Beia Formoso**; cyber smart and my guardian angel, **Bryan Lim**; Ben C.; Miguel P.; Star's Life editor **Millet Mananquil** and her husband, fun **Robert M.**; Jun de Leon, and his assistant **Ramon Ty**; and everyone's darling of darlings, headturner **Bambi Fuentes**, who is Kris' personal makeup artist and who had many men looking her way and thinking she was a beauty from Brazil or Colombia. I eventually dubbed her Ms South America.

During the flight, Kris who is incredibly bright, spent hours talking and laughing with me. The trip from Abu Dhabi to Manille was very relaxing and enjoyable, especially since we were back to the business class, where we enjoyed the excellently, well-prepared world-class menu and wine list. Gulf Air's international flight stewards offered us that fabled Arabian hospitality, which will always be remembered by this Famous 9 group.

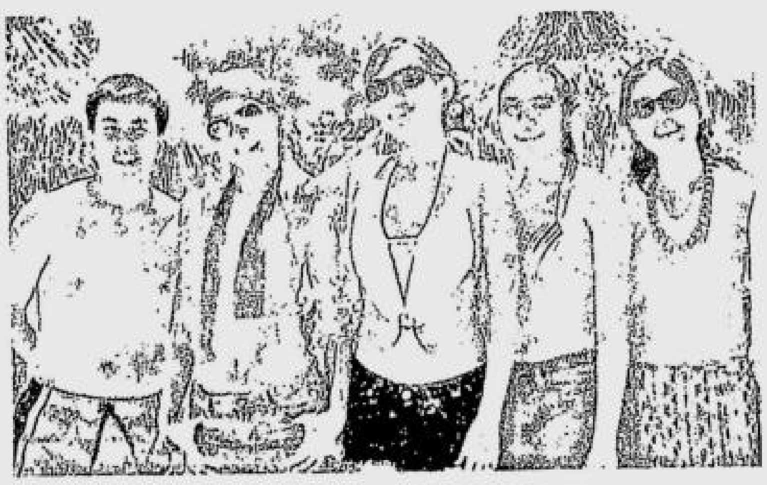
Naturellement, during the whole trip in Greece we all enjoyed our must-haves—daily dose of Berocca Vitamin C and B Complex, Calcium and Biotin and, not to forget, L'Oreal's fab Kérastase for all our hair care. Nicolette and Alexandria's eye-catching makeup was by Maybelline.

Our thanks to **Ligaya C. Tabirao**, Meteor Tours and Travel's super-smart regional director of marketing and sales for RP and Guam. For tours to Israel, Jordan, Egypt, Turkey and Greece, fax 5647613, call 0918-9125177 or 0927-5118814; or e-mail meteorph@edsamail.eom.ph.

Thanks, too, to Gulf Air's brilliant marketing and sales officer for the Philippines, Suzette I. Tongco, (tel. 8921313; fax 8176886; or log on to www. gulfairco.com). Gulf Air has eight flights a week via the Middle East to any part of Europe and the USA.

COLORFUL alleyways on Mykonos

GORGEOUS models Alexandria and Nicolette wear summer-cool Kashieca and HerBench outfits.



BREAKTIME after photo shoots at the chi-chi Paradise Resort. Bryan Lim, Nicolette Bell, Donna Cuna-Pita, Beia Formoso and Liza Ilarde

BENCH gal Kris with her Bench men: Evo, Max and Jacob, and Bench's main man, Ben Chan

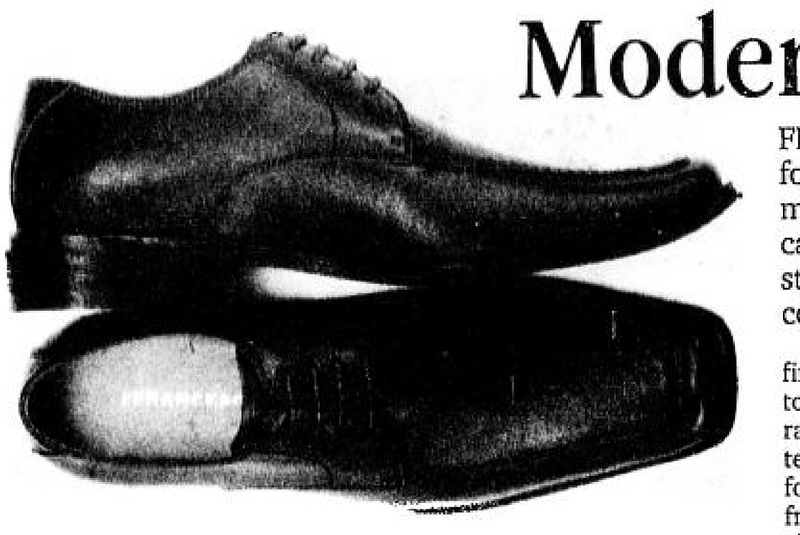
THE SPECTACULAR changing of the president's guards, done every hour of the day in front of the Parliament Building in Constitution Square, Athens

Love ko
bench

THE BENCH Bunch at Paradise Resort on Mykonos

GULF AIR cabin crew: Angelina, Gilbert Crellin, Rosie Reyes, Ofelia Pangan

Modern shoe options for young men



FRANCESCO men's leather shoes in brown leather with narrow square toe and shoelace detail

FRANCESCO is the answer for young men looking for modern shoe options that can perfectly match their stylish outfits without compromising comfort.

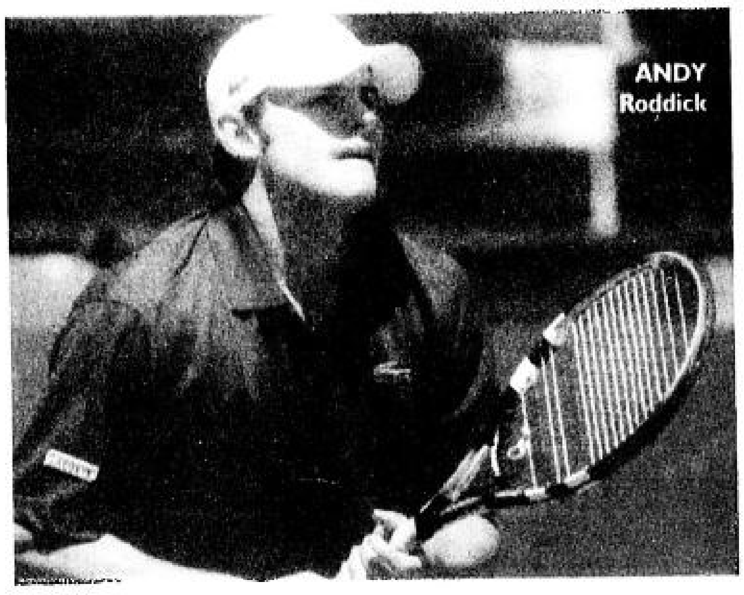
At Francesco, men can now find the newest footwear choices to slip into from casual to corporate dressing. This shoe haven is teeming with the latest footwear for men in a wide array of colors, from the classic to more fashionable shades.

Choose from a pleasing assortment of casual slip-ons, walking shoes, boots and dressy shoes to complement your wardrobe in an effortless style. Francesco utilizes only the finest quality leather uppers, lining and other premium lightweight materials.

Pick the footwear styles that suit your lifestyle at Francesco, with branches at Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati; 2/L, Shangri-La Plaza Mall along Edsa, Shaw, Mandaluyong; Robinsons Galleria, Ortigas Avenue, Pasig; Upper G/F, Alabang Town Center; and at Shoppesville, Greenhills, San Juan.

LEATHER shoes in brown with narrow square toe and shoelace detail

HALF-BOOTS in black leather with square tip and lightweight sole material


ANDY
Roddick

Tennis fashion serve from Andy Roddick

TOP American player Andy Roddick will be part of the Lacoste tennis team for the next five years, La Chemise Lacoste recently announced.

The Lacoste team includes some of the most promising players such as Richard Gasquet and Tatiana Golovin.

The 22-year-old Roddick follows in the footsteps of great champions like Arthur Ashe, Tony Trabert, Lewis Hoad and Ken Rosewall as a Lacoste ambassador, on and off the tennis court.

Lacoste was founded in 1933 by René Lacoste, a tennis superstar of the 1920s and multiple grand-slam and Davis Cup winner. Wanting to beat the heat of American summers, he decided to have a shirt made just for him. The Lacoste shirt revolutionized men's sportswear, replacing the long-sleeved, starched classic shirt on the court.

Lacoste is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists Inc.

SMITTEN. Slim string number in resplendent red with Art Deco toe pendant

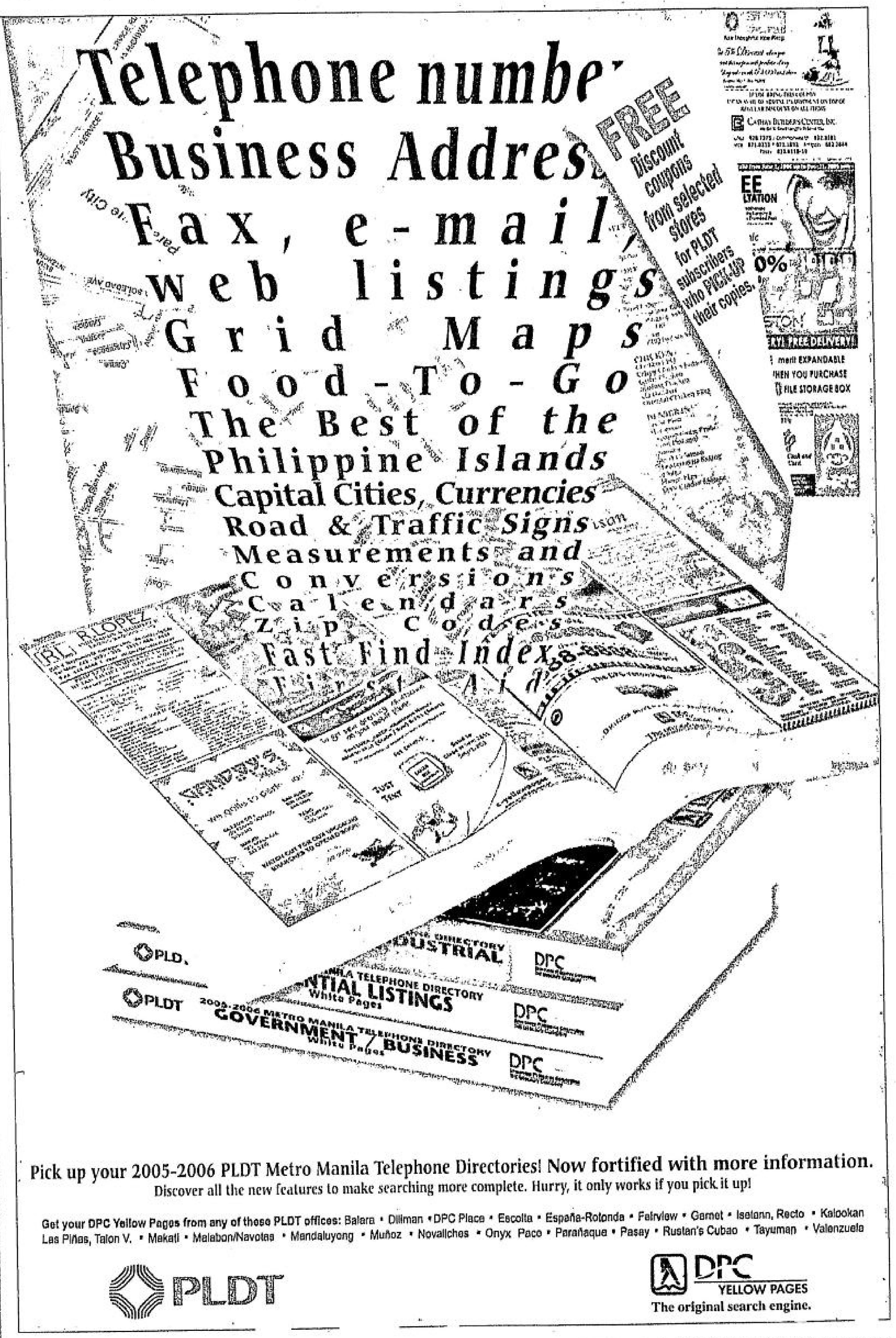
BOY TOY. Trusty browns in medley of coffee, mocha and camel perfectly matched with soft black leather

Luscious-colored collection

KICKERS has come up with a new collection bursting with new styles, colors and textures.

There's a resplendently red strappy pair of thongs with art deco toe pendants. Also, meet your match in comfy black strappy numbers or slingbacks in luscious colors. Go dainty with a lightweight, charming rubber number or with an old-rose buckled pair. Comfortable leather comes in earthy browns and trusty black. Or why not opt for a corded black pair in distressed leather to add spunk to your attitude?

Kickers is available at Kickers boutiques in leading malls, department stores and specialty shops.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Supreme
Wide 3" flush valve for a quick and powerful flush.
Extra large siphon jet for maximum power.
Large 2 1/8" computer designed, fully glazed trapway reduces clogging.
Drake

POWER BY TOTO GRAVITY

- High-end residential use.
- TOTO toilets offer a flushing system that blends a combination of features to provide an exceptionally high-performance flush.
  - 3" flush valve for high-volume flushing
  - Siphon jet action to assist performance for efficiency
  - 2 1/8" glazed, computer designed trapway.

SoftClose Seat TC393S

- Latest in innovative smart seat technology.
- Designed to reduce [illegible] and eliminate [illegible] "Toilet Seat Slam".
- The seat and lid [illegible] built-in Soft Close [illegible] hinge [illegible] the seat down to [illegible] gently and quietly.

Supreme & Drake

Experience the Power of Inner Beauty

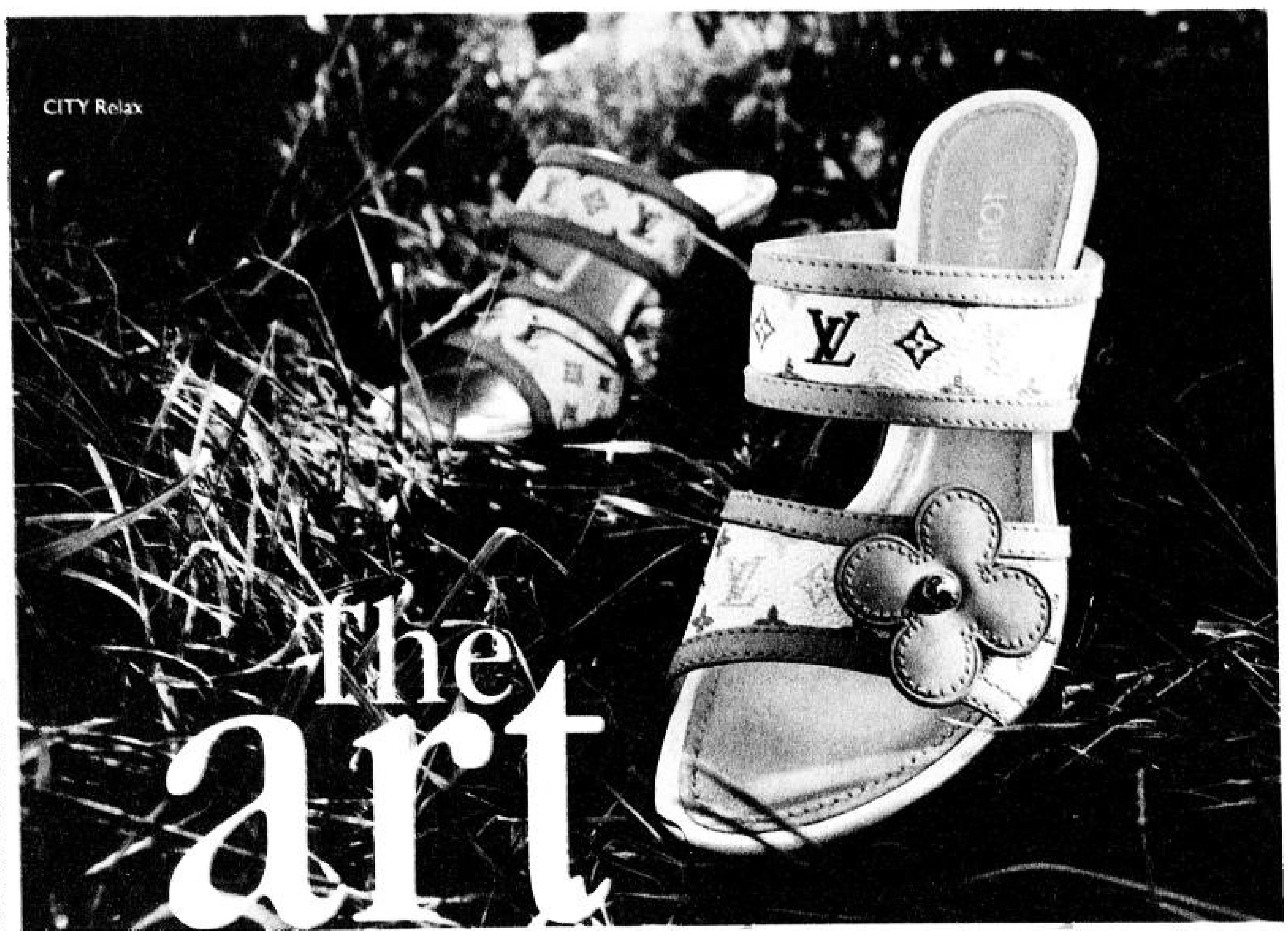
It may seem strange, but we feel our water closets do have an Inner Beauty. Perhaps we're looking through our engineers' eyes, but it's there. You can experience it in our high performance flushing systems and our computer-designed trapways.

TOTO
http://www.toto.com.ph/

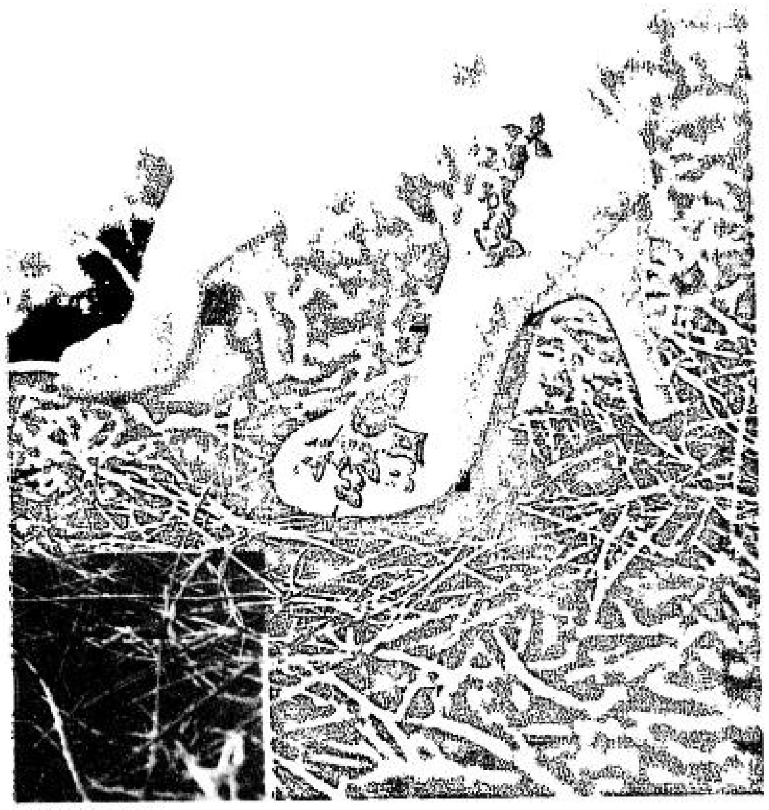
GMAX

- A ground breaking, patented removal technology that's unrivalled in the industry.
- Same quiet but forceful flush available at some of the most demanding commercial applications that exceeds government and manufacturing and consumer expectations.
- Wider flush valve and specially-designed pipe trapway, which translates into a maximum pulling power with minimal environmental impact.
- Less chance of clogging and less need for multiple flushing after use.

CITY Elegant



CITY Relax



CITY Elegant

The art is in the details

FOR SPRING-SUMMER 2005, Louis Vuitton gets inspiration from the performing arts and melds colors, elegance, fashion and functionality to come up with a playful and fantasy-driven women's shoe collection.

Rich in detail resembling art pieces, the collection complements the latest ready-to-wear and leather goods collections.

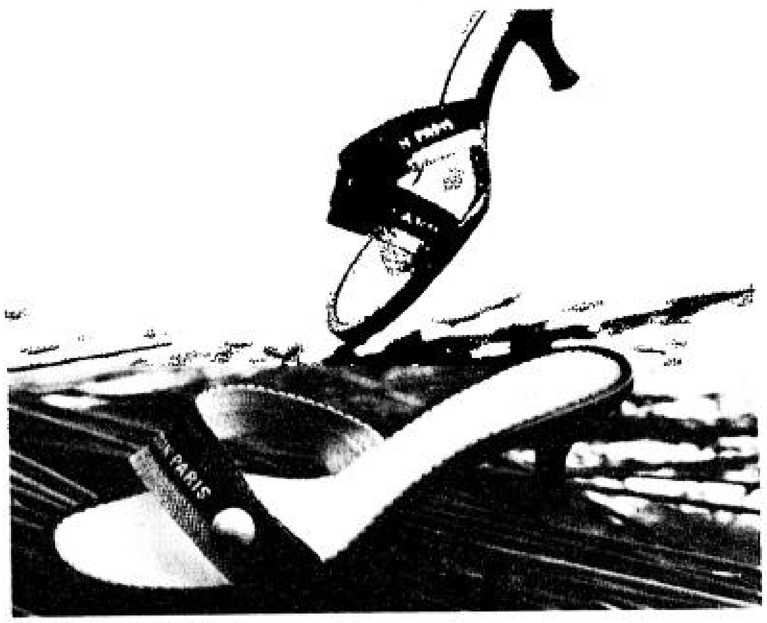
The Evening collection is characterized by extravagance. Sexy and feminine images of "Charlie's Angels" are evident with black suede high-heeled slings, adorned with a dazzling silver floral buckle for luxurious allure. Monogram canvas joins cowhide in black high heels with a golden buckle, which are perfect for shuttling between the office and cocktail soirees.

The City Elegant collection comes in multi-colored canvas or monogram knit, with sandals ornamented with vivid, three-dimensional flowers. This collection offers a curvaceous silhouette with rainbow colors on the heels.

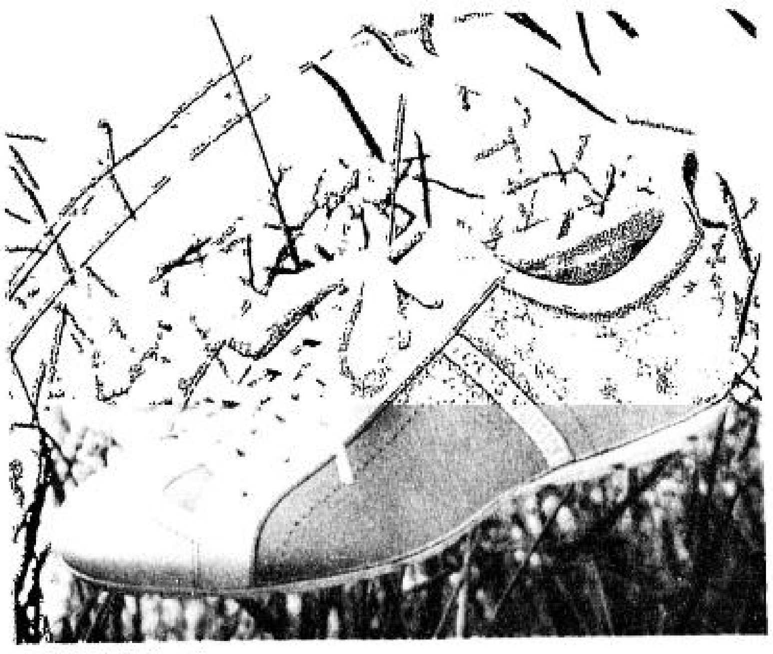
Hippie and bohemian styles characterize the City Relax collection, a casual shoe collection that invokes passion for travel. Created in a relaxed style, the round-toe ballet flats accented with a bow, and the multi-colored floral open-toe canvas sandals will complement any smart casual attire.

The Casual collection consists of shoes that combine sporty effects with contemporary glamour. Clean lines define the wearer's individuality.

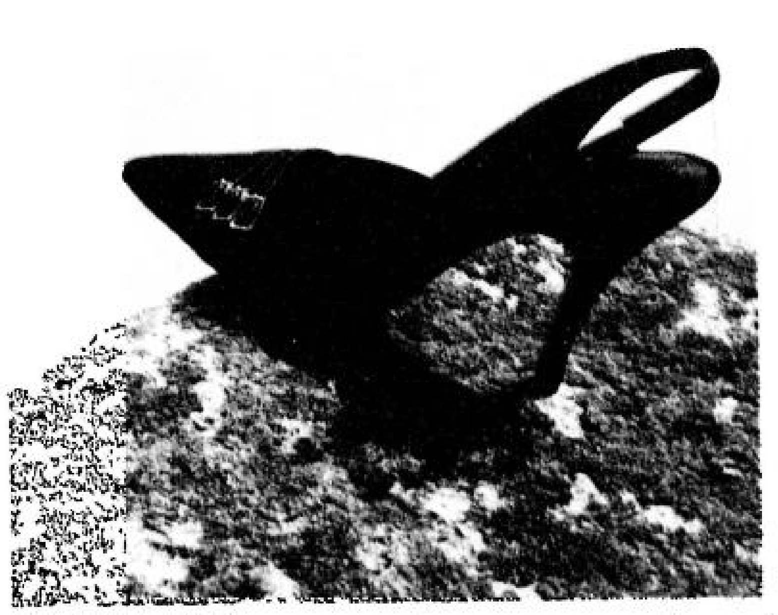
The Louis Vuitton Women's Shoe Spring-Summer 2005 collection is available exclusively at the Louis Vuitton store at the Greenbelt IV, Makati City. Visit the www.louisvuitton.com.



EVENING Collection



CASUAL Collection



EVENING Collection

The best bands in the world compete
in LONDON, ENGLAND
for $ 100,000.00

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OR YOUR LOCAL LOVE RADIO, YES FM OR HOT FM STATION
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PHILIPPINE BATTLE CALENDAR:

	WEEKLY FINALS	REGIONAL FINALS
Cebu	Aug. 5, 12, 19, 26 - Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23	Oct. 8
Davao	Aug. 12, 19, 26 - Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Oct. 15
Baguio	Aug. 19, 26 - Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - Oct. 7	Oct. 22
Manila	Aug. 5, 12,19, 26 - Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - Oct. 7, 14	Oct. 27

PRIZES

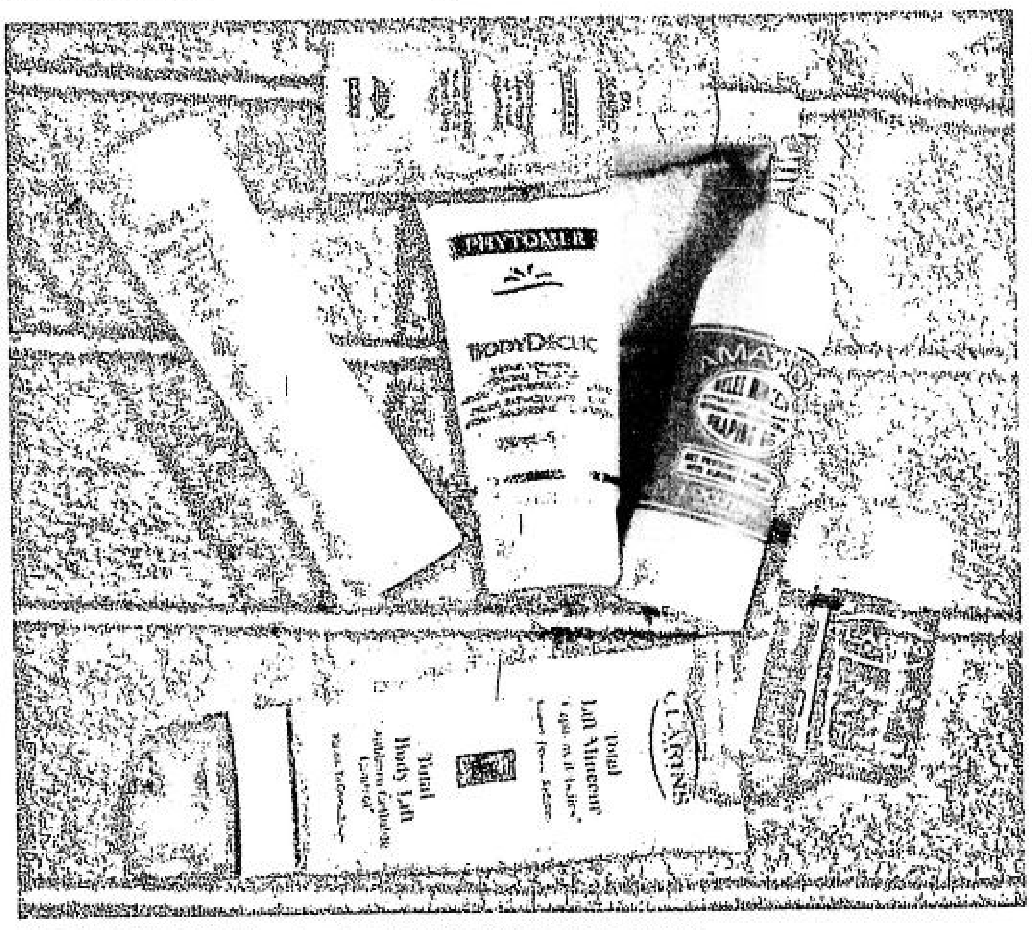
Weekly		P 20,000
Regional Finals		P 100,000
Grand National Finals	1st Prize	P 500,000
	2nd Prize	P 300,000
	3rd Prize	P 200,000

GRAND NATIONAL FINALS AT THE ALIW THEATER - OCT. 29

LIFESTYLE

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback: Inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)



MY ANTI-CELLULITE and anti-water retention secret weapons

Stand firm and face proud

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

I N SEARCH of the most potent beauty products, I have really high standards when it comes to skin firmers. My preferences are the ones I can get from the dermatologist's office because they are surely more potent than the ones sold over the counter. The store-bought ones I listed may have pretty impressive results, but they are not as strong as those from the doctors. Because I use the applications, people have commented that my arms, face and thighs look smaller and jiggle only very minimally now.

Firmer body: Belo MD skin firming and whitening lotion (P1,100) evens out my body's skintone while tightening the slack areas such as my buttocks, breasts, stomach, arms and thighs.

I also apply Jeunesse Copper Peptide serum and then Basic Cream with Lavender Oil (also for face) on top. But these should not be mixed with Vitamin C lotions as they will cancel out each other.

On days I have been very undisciplined exercise-wise, I apply the copper peptide on slack areas, then seal it off with Belo MD lotion all over the body. I really see and feel the difference the next morning when my clothes just slide on.

Clarins Total Body Lift Stubborn Cellulite Control not only improves cellulite but contracts my stomach and thighs so clothes fit better.

You may also try Shiseido Body Firming Cream and Phytomer Seatonic Body Firming Cream and L'Oreal Stretchmark corrector cream.

Supplement: Twinlab DMAE capsules from Health Express (P700) tone up the muscles on my face, throat and arms. It contracts and flexes the muscles while purging toxins. The skin eventually gets tighter.

DMAE firms muscles under skin; works on throat, cheeks, jaws, arms

Firmer face/eye area: Shu Uemura Beta G Eye Cream, Comfort Zone No More Puffy Eyes (P1,245) and Sundari Neem Eye Cream (P1,800). Both tackle dark circles as well as puffy eyes.

Lifetime Skin Care Factors Day Firming Serum with Alpha Lipoic Acid and DMAE (P3,300) is the strongest topical face cream I have found. It tones up slackening cheeks, jawline and hands.

Battling PMS water retention: Every time it's that week before that time of the month for me, I gain four pounds of water weight that settle on my hips, thighs, face and stomach. People tell me outright I got fat and don't believe me when I tell them it's water weight. My clothes fit lousy that I get into a bad mood and even burst into tears because of frustration.

Checking our cycles

Thank goodness for the French who have devoted an entire section of their pharmacy for oils or creams that drain excess fluid so we are no longer at the mercy of our cycles.

My top picks: Clarins Anti Eau Oil (P1,950) and Nuxe Spa Tonific Drainage Oil, both are double-duty cellulite eliminators.

Try also L'Occitane Amande Gelee shaping gel, Shiseido Body Creator (the only Japanese brand strong enough to qualify as anti-water retention) and Phytomer Body Declic Anti Eau cream.

Massage the formula on the body after a shower and you will notice a feeling of lightness. You will also make frequent trips to the bathroom to pee.

Announcement: You Hair and Body Salon at The Fort has finally opened. I chose to review the "maintenance treatments" because it is what people keep coming back for.

Lyn did a fabulous job in making me look elegant with my eyebrow threading, squared pedicure with very quirky nail art (I picked a cherry for every nail), and foot spa with massage.

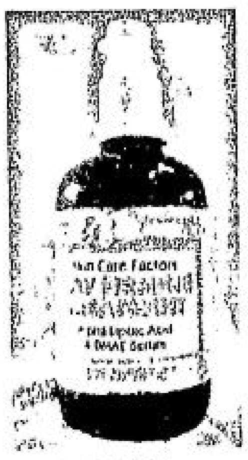
Gloria gave me a square sheer nude manicure. You can't buy the classy nude shades they use outside, but I found a perfect match with Essie nail polish in Future's French for toes and Potato Fields for fingers.

Mr. Y is the shop's star Korean stylist for digital perm. You will get big romantic ringlets that stay close to the head and body. It starts from the ears down that's why they are called hanging curls.

For Belo MD lotion, call 8442939. For Copper Peptide serum and cream, call Jeunesse Manila, 6888062. Sundari, Comfort Zone, and Essie nail polish are exclusively available at Essenses. DMAE capsules and Lifetime Skin Firming serum are available at Health Express. Call 8929364.

E-mail the author at kinnysalas@yahoo.com.

FOR PUFFY eyes



DAY FIRMING Treatment (Alpha Lipoic Acid and DMAE Serum)

*Color may vary from actual unit

Cross-stitch for a Dream Car
RAFFLE PROMO

Mechanics:

1. Buy 24 skeins (2 boxes) of DMC Art. 117 threads from any participating craftstore nationwide.
2. Collect and cut out the two (2) DMC box top flaps with security marks "Exclusively distributed by Focus Global Inc. for Philippine market only."
3. On the back of the two (2) flaps, write your name, address, telephone number and affix your signature. Write the name and address of the store where DMC threads were bought. Erasures on flaps, incomplete skein bands and unauthenticated box flaps will disqualify the entry.
4. Enclose the 24 skein bands with DMC logo and two box flaps in a white legal sized envelope. Indicate GMA, Luzon or VisMin on the envelope - to indicate specific area of entry.
5. Mail entries to DMC Cross-stitch for a Dream Car Raffle c/o FOCUS Global Inc., Pioneer cor. Reliance Sts., Mandaluyong City 1550 or drop in designated drop boxes in authorized stores nationwide.

Skein band with DMC logo

Back of flap

Rules:

1. One envelope, one entry. An entry should contain 24 skeins, two (2) box flaps with security marks and should be properly labeled with the required details. Send as many entries as you want for more chances of winning.
2. There shall be one winner per area – GMA, Luzon, VisMin, a total of three winners in every preliminary draw. Non-winning entries from the previous draws, regardless of area, qualify for the grand draw.
3. Only entries dropped in drop boxes until the last day of the covered period will qualify for the draw. Entries received through mail, a day before the draw date with postmark until the last day of a covered period, will qualify for the draw.
4. Only flaps with authenticated security codes will be honored and qualified to win. A participant can only win once in each raffle draw. All non-winning entries are still qualified in the succeeding raffle draws.
5. Winners shall be notified via registered mail and will be announced in a newspaper of general circulation within two weeks after each draw.
6. Prizes are tax paid except for the grand prize (which will be paid by the winner). Prizes not redeemed within 60 days after receipt of notification shall be forfeited upon prior approval of DTI. Prizes are not convertible to cash.
7. Raffle draws shall be held at FOCUS Global Inc. office at 5pm.
8. Grand prize winner and winners within Metro Manila can claim their prizes at FOCUS Global Inc., Pioneer cor. Reliance Sts., Mandaluyong City 1550. Provincial winners can claim their prizes in the authorized stores as identified in the registered mail. They must present one valid ID with picture, as well as the copy of the registered mail sent to them.
9. Employees of FOCUS Global Inc., its ad agencies, promotion agencies, as well as their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promo.
10. Owners and employees of craftstores and DMC outlets, as well as their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are also disqualified from joining the promo.

Prizes:

Promo Period	Prizes	Raffle Date
July - Aug 31	(1) Winner of Apple iPod Shuffle per area	September 15, 2005
July - Sept 30	(1) Winner of Nextbase DVD player per area	October 15, 2005
July - Oct 31	[illegible]	November 15, 2005
July - Nov 15	Grand Draw Winner of Toyota Vios 1.3	November 29, 2005

Store Partner Prizes:

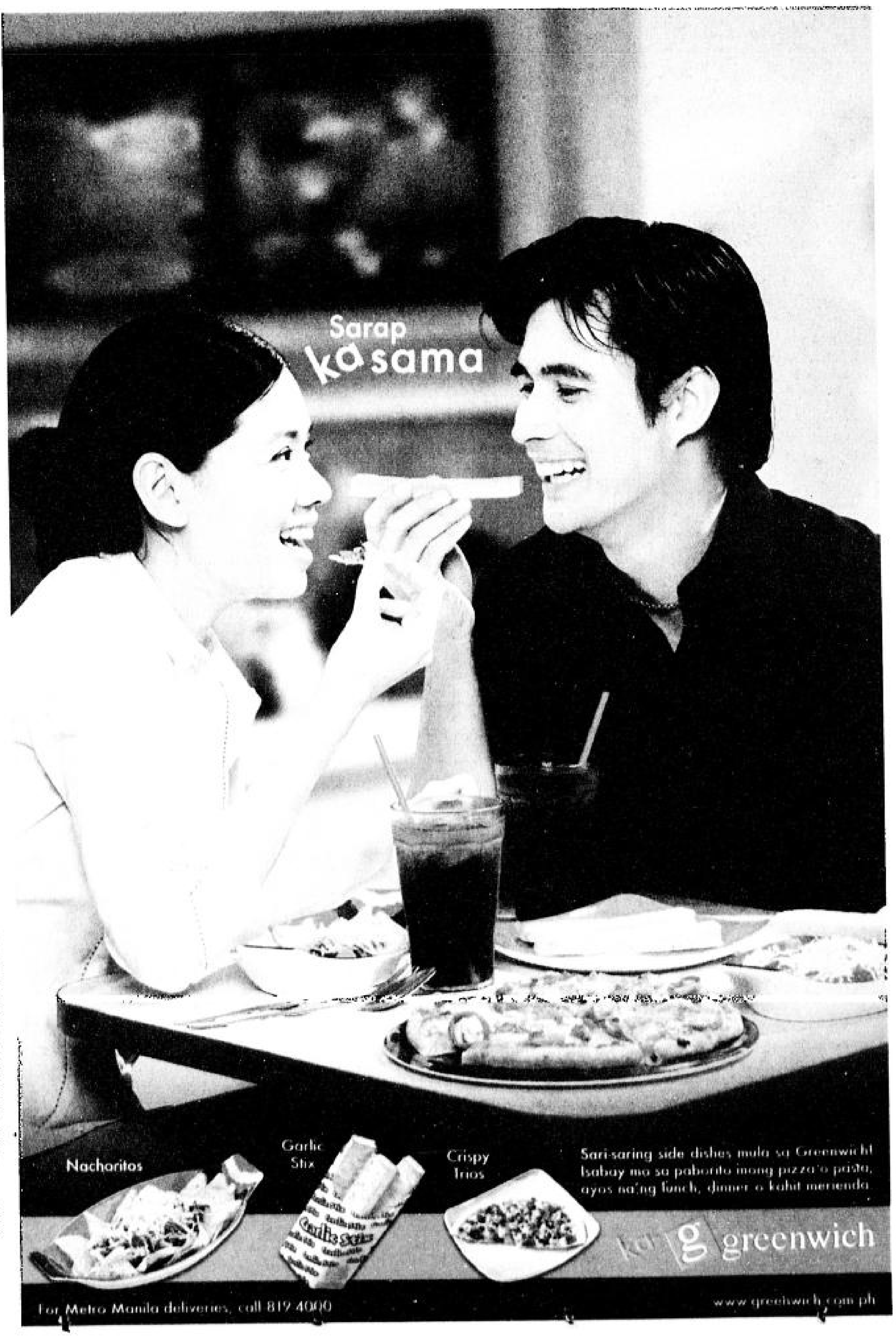
P1,000.00 for every store partner preliminary draw winner

P5,000.00 for store partner grand draw winner

CREATIVE WORLD DMC

Exclusively distributed by FOCUS GLOBAL INC. - Pioneer cor. Reliance Sts., Mandaluyong City Tel: 634-8587 Fax: 634-8738

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3857 Series of 2005



Sarap kasama

Nacharitos

Garlic Stix

Crispy Trios

Sari-saring side dishes mula sa Greenwich! Isabay mo sa paborito mong pizza o pasta, ayos na'ng lunch, dinner o kahit merienda.

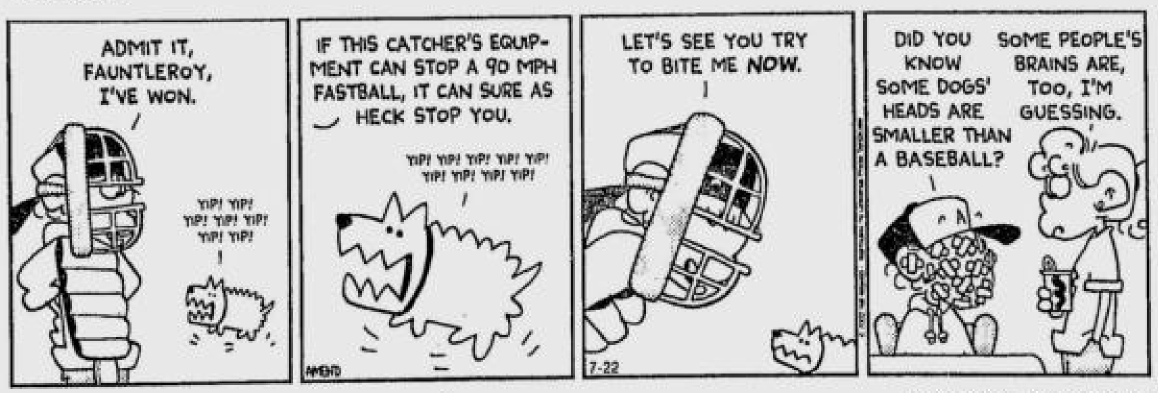
ka g greenwich

For Metro Manila deliveries, call 819 4000

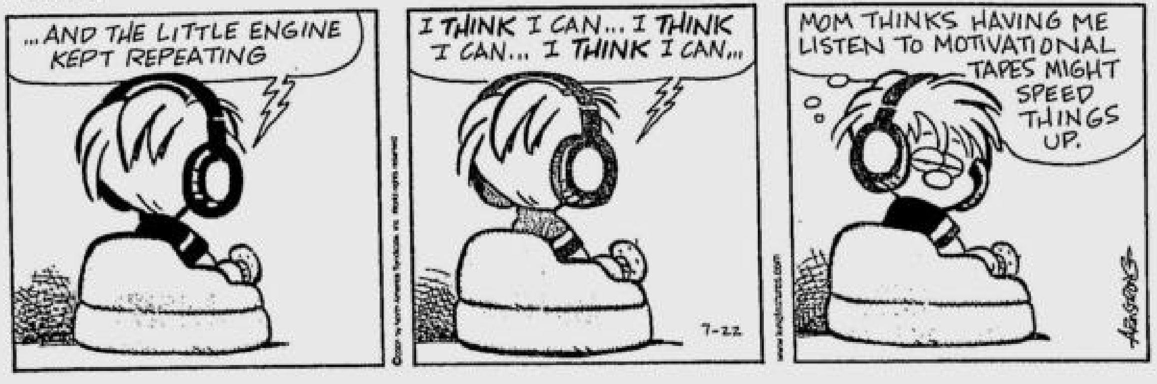
www.greenwich.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
ComicRelief
e-mail feedback at arts@inquirer.com.ph
FRIDAY, JULY 22, 2005

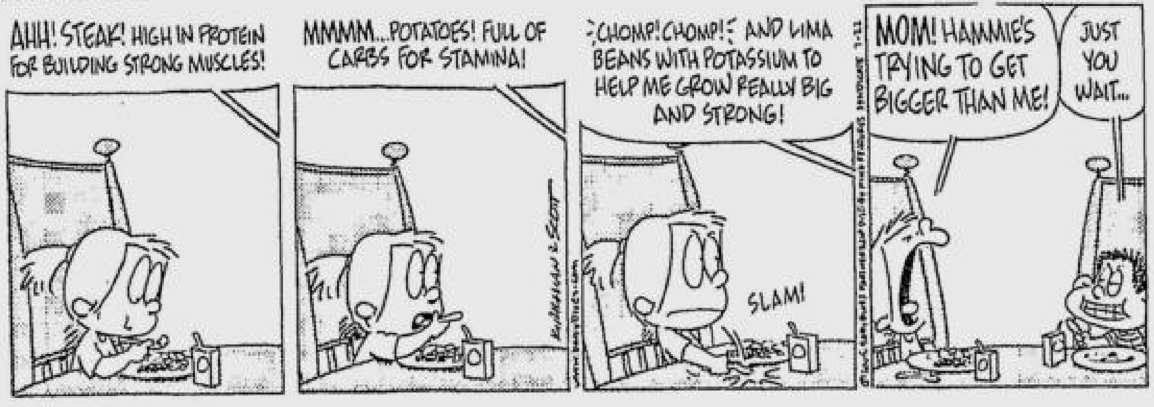
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


ADMIT IT, FAUNTLEROY, I'VE WON.
YIP! YIP! YIP! YIP! YIP! YIP! YIP!
IF THIS CATCHER'S EQUIPMENT CAN STOP A 90 MPH FASTBALL, IT CAN SURE AS HECK STOP YOU.
YIP! YIP! YIP! YIP! YIP! YIP! YIP! YIP! YIP!
AMEND
LET'S SEE YOU TRY TO BITE ME NOW.
7-22
DID YOU KNOW SOME DOGS' HEADS ARE SMALLER THAN A BASEBALL?
SOME PEOPLE'S BRAINS ARE, TOO, I'M GUESSING.

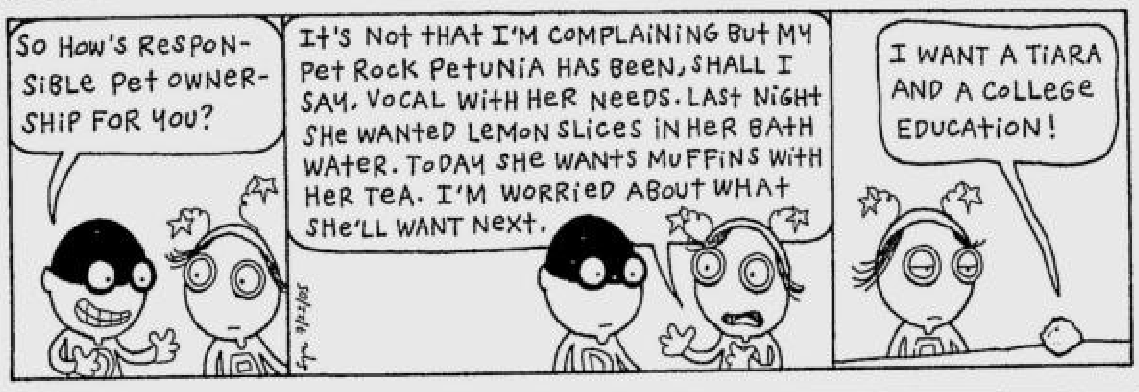
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


...AND THE LITTLE ENGINE KEPT REPEATING
I THINK I CAN... I THINK I CAN... I THINK I CAN...
7-22
MOM THINKS HAVING ME LISTEN TO MOTIVATIONAL TAPES MIGHT SPEED THINGS UP.
ARMSTRONG

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


AHH! STEAK! HIGH IN PROTEIN FOR BUILDING STRONG MUSCLES!
MMMM...POTATOES! FULL OF CARBS FOR STAMINA!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT
CHOMP! CHOMP! AND LIMA BEANS WITH POTASSIUM TO HELP ME GROW REALLY BIG AND STRONG!
SLAM!
MOM! HAMMIE'S TRYING TO GET BIGGER THAN ME!
JUST YOU WAIT...

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


SO HOW'S RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP FOR YOU?
IT'S NOT THAT I'M COMPLAINING BUT MY PET ROCK PETUNIA HAS BEEN, SHALL I SAY, VOCAL WITH HER NEEDS. LAST NIGHT SHE WANTED LEMON SLICES IN HER BATH WATER. TODAY SHE WANTS MUFFINS WITH HER TEA. I'M WORRIED ABOUT WHAT SHE'LL WANT NEXT.
I WANT A TIARA AND A COLLEGE EDUCATION!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a take-charge quality to your personality. You're attracted to the arts, sports or positions where you run things. You have good social skills. People like you. (You have a warm heart.) The year ahead involves big changes. You'll say goodbye to people and let go of things. Time to move on.
Birthdate of: Willem Dafoe, actor; Rufus Wainwright, songwriter; Danny Glover, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Ex-lovers and old flames are likely to reappear in your life once more. Look positive and upbeat! (Living well is the best revenge.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You're dealing with a lot of old business connected with family matters and your domestic scene. You'll have to sort through old stuff. Family members are on your doorstep once again. (Stock the fridge!)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Pay your telephone bill. Expect to talk to siblings and relatives more. Communication errors and mixed-up instructions or directions are highly likely now and in the next few weeks.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is a good time to finish old business deals. Attend to old financial matters. Now you can finally wrap something up, which is definitely a relief for you.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Mercury is now retrograde in your sign. This brings all kinds of situations and people from your past out into the open. Expect to be dealing with ex-partners once again.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is a good time to research old subjects and dig into the past. You can make wonderful progress. These items might relate to the government or large institutions. Jump right in!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Old friends from the past are with you once again. (It's good to have history with others.) Enjoy these renewed acquaintances, and catch up on gossip!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You might run into old bosses or authority figures from your past. Some of you will be talking more to a parent now. These are opportunities to reconnect or smooth over past difficulties.

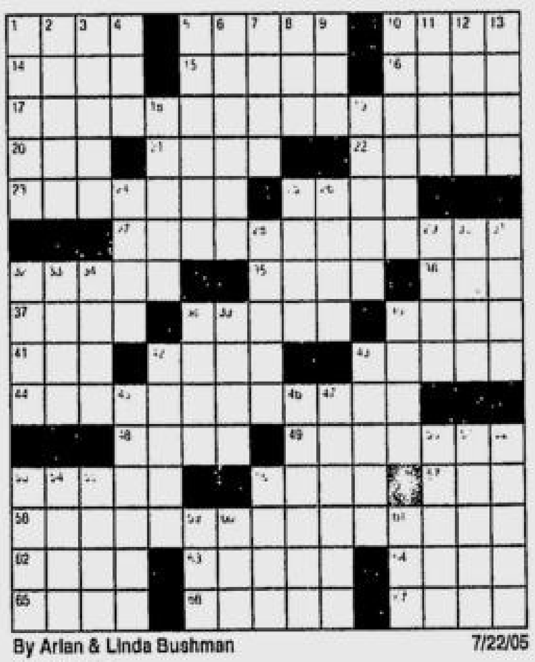
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Travel plans might be delayed. Similar delays with publishing and educational matters are likely. Old issues have arisen once again.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Your ability to research something in the past is fabulous now and in the next few weeks. If you dig deep, you will get answers!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Most of you will be talking to ex-spouses and ex-partners now and in the next few weeks. This might be a good opportunity to settle unfinished business.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Delays at work due to mixed communication, late deliveries, canceled events and just everyday little mistakes are unavoidable now. Just go with the flow and do the best you can.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Arlan & Linda Bushman
Chicago, IL
7/22/05

ACROSS

1 Urban oasis
5 Apres-ski beverage
10 Fleeting trace
14 Hautboy
15 Passes over
16 Crowning point
17 The inept fashion designer...
20 Summer in Tours
21 Editor's notation
22 Cowboy milieu
23 Break
25 Predisposition
27 The bankrupt fashion designer..
32 Sparkle
35 Qualified
36 Saloon
37 Bank (on)
38 Trigger or Buttermilk
40 Mayberry deputy
41 Pen fluid
42 Letters for big shots
43 Undue speed
44 The penniless fashion designer...
48 Past spouses
49 Daydream
53 Sound loudly
56 Fresh Greek bread?
57 Last bit
58 The corrupt fashion designer..
62 Revival shout
63 Make merry
64 Got it!
65 Inventor Elias
66 Seventh heaven
67 Blab

DOWN

1 Tyrone of films
2 Slack off
3 Kentucky Derby prize
4 Beer container
5 Really wants
6 Brunch order
7 French movies
8 Mel of the Polo Grounds
9 Grate stuff
10 Indiana river
11 Screen symbol
12 Noxious cloud
13 Rose of baseball
18 Linguistic quirk
19 Expunge
24 Flexibility
25 Tops of overalls
26 Cay
28 Merciless
29 Marsh wader
30 Floating platform
31 Baobab or banyan
32 Handhold
33 Al Capp's hyena
34 Wapitis
38 Conceal
39 Elects
40 Destiny
42 Ticked off
43 Total confusion
45 Tranquil
46 Breaks out
47 Legendary figures
50 Witherspoon of "Legally Blonde"
51 Chip-making giant
52 Infamous Ford flop
53 So-so
54 Exec's wheels
55 From scratch
56 Actor Morales
59 Lang. of Israel
60 Out of sorts
61 Hobbyist's buy

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

CHAWS■BORN■COPE
HIREE■OREO■UNUM
ELIAN■RAINDROPS
FOLKSTOLDMEI■■■
■■■LEAN■■EPOCHS
RAGING■UNTO■ROE
EGAN■■ALIAS■ELM
WASGULLIBLEANDI
OSH■LOINS■■UNIT
VSC■SITS■IODATE
FIGHTS■■TONI■■■
■■BELIEVEDTHEM
ELDORADOS■EIEIO
FIRM■NENE■CORNS
FLUB■EAST■KNEES

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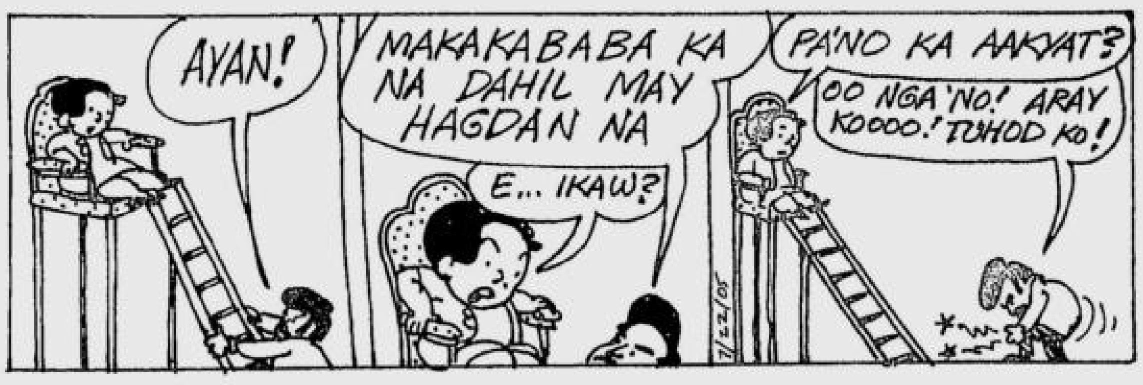
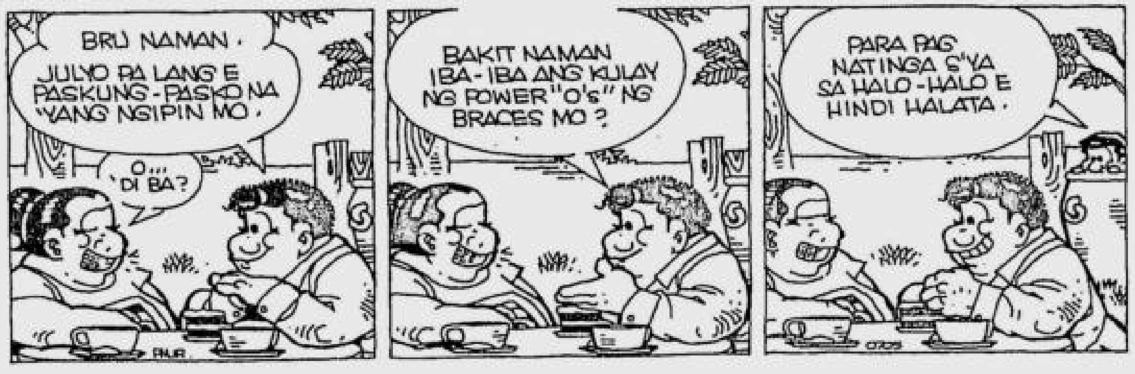
7/22/05

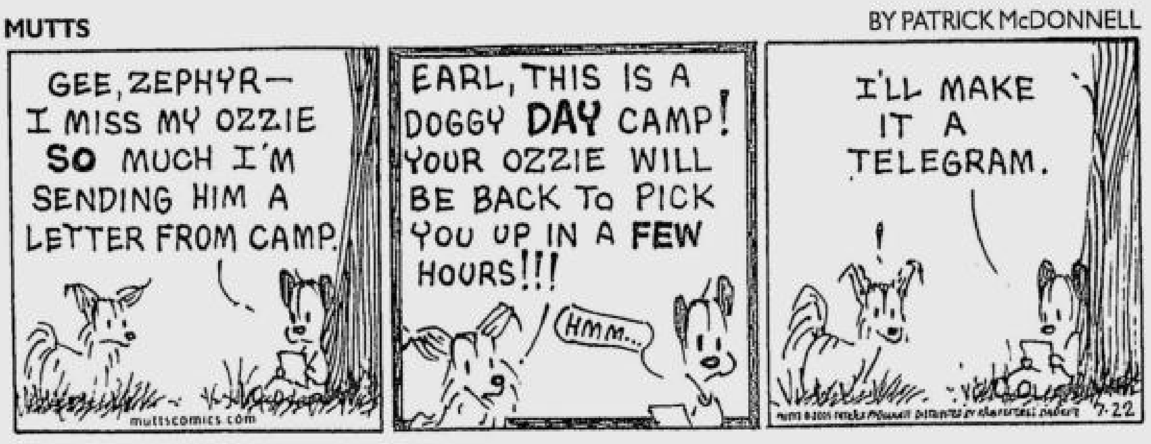
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


AYAN!
MAKAKABABA KA NA DAHIL MAY HAGDAN NA
E... IKAW?
7/22/05
PA'NO KA AAKYAT?
OO NGA 'NO! ARAY KOOOO! TUHOD KO!

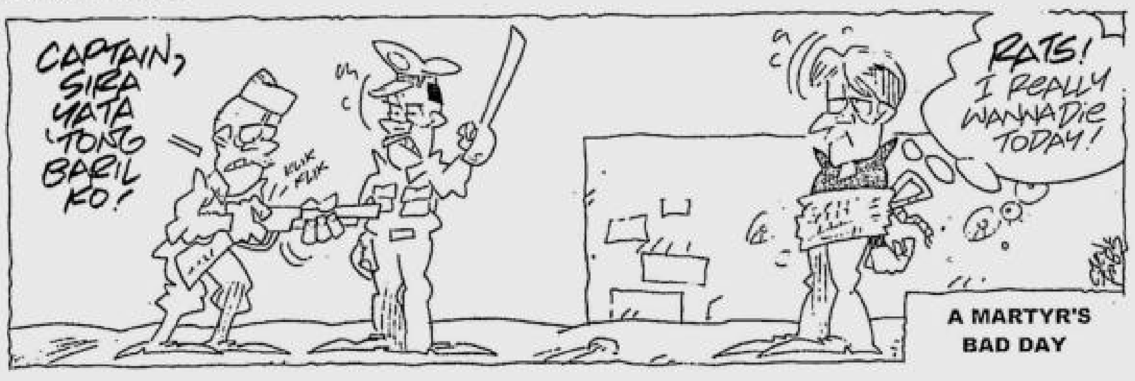
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


BRU NAMAN. JULYO PA LANG E PASKUNG-PASKO NA 'YANG NGIPIN MO.
O... 'DI BA?
BAKIT NAMAN IBA-IBA ANG KULAY NG POWER "O's" NG BRACES MO?
PARA PAG NATINGA S'YA SA HALO-HALO E HINDI HALATA.

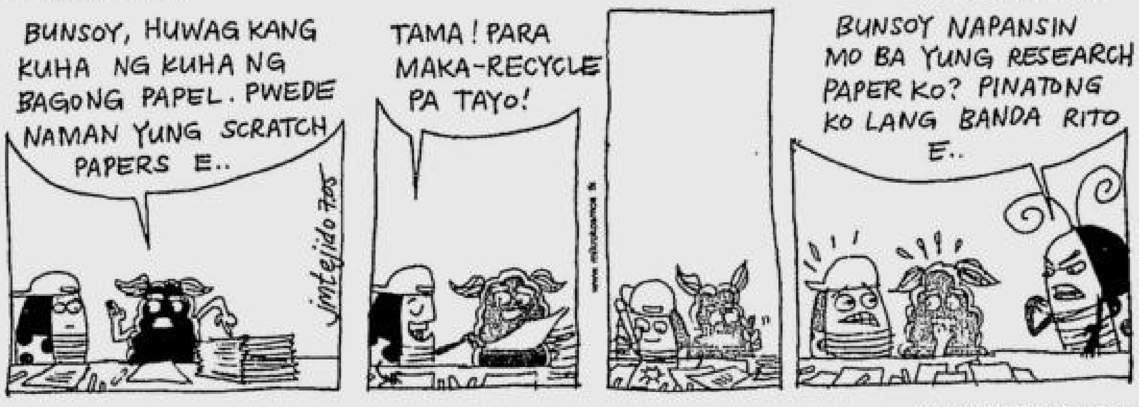
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


GEE, ZEPHYR— I MISS MY OZZIE SO MUCH I'M SENDING HIM A LETTER FROM CAMP.
muttscomics.com
EARL, THIS IS A DOGGY DAY CAMP! YOUR OZZIE WILL BE BACK TO PICK YOU UP IN A FEW HOURS!!!
HMM...
I'LL MAKE IT A TELEGRAM.
7-22

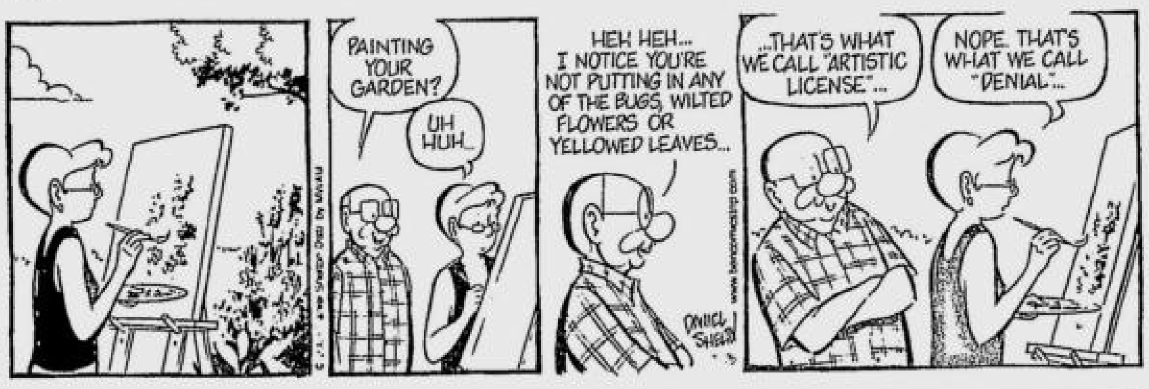
DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


CAPTAIN, SIRA YATA 'TONG BARIL KO!
KLIK KLIK
RATS! I REALLY WANNA DIE TODAY!
A MARTYR'S BAD DAY

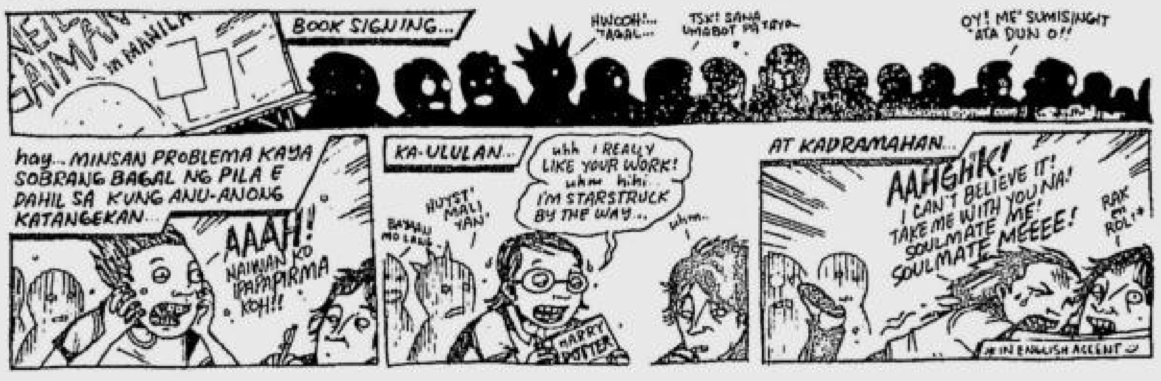
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


BUNSOY, HUWAG KANG KUHA NG KUHA NG BAGONG PAPEL. PWEDE NAMAN YUNG SCRATCH PAPERS E..
jmtejido 7.05
TAMA! PARA MAKA-RECYCLE PA TAYO!
BUNSOY NAPANSIN MO BA YUNG RESEARCH PAPER KO? PINATONG KO LANG BANDA RITO E..

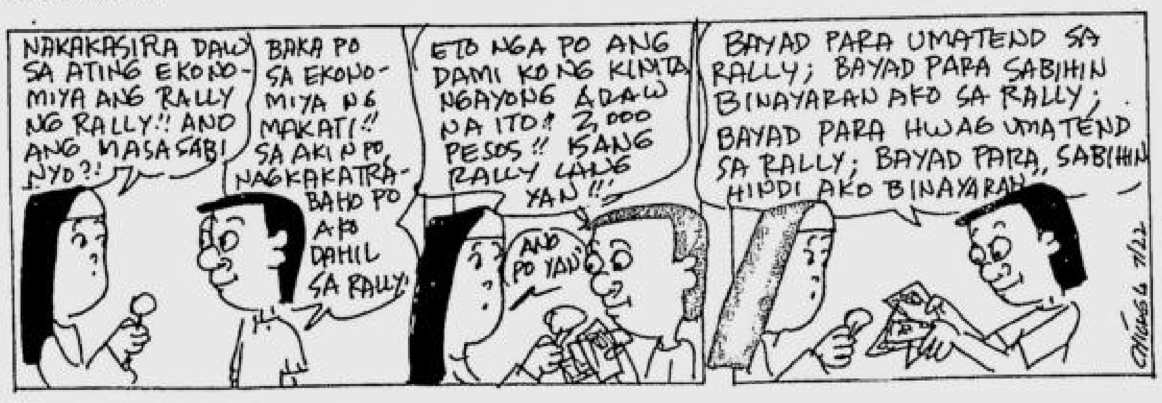
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


PAINTING YOUR GARDEN?
UH HUH...
HEH HEH... I NOTICE YOU'RE NOT PUTTING IN ANY OF THE BUGS, WILTED FLOWERS OR YELLOWED LEAVES...
DANIEL SHELTON
...THAT'S WHAT WE CALL "ARTISTIC LICENSE"...
NOPE. THAT'S WHAT WE CALL "DENIAL"...

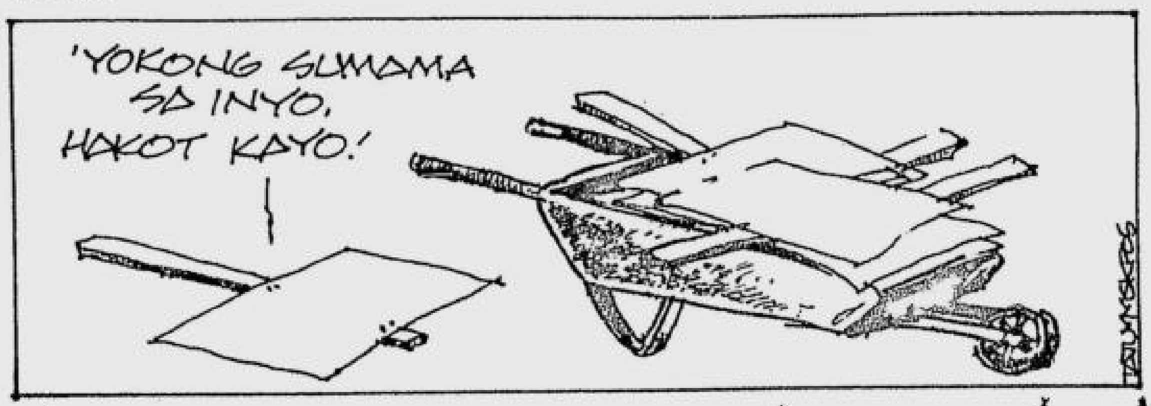
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


NEIL GAIMAN in MANILA
BOOK SIGNING...
HWOOH!... TAGAL...
TSK! SANA UMABOT PA TAYO
OY! ME' SUMISINGIT ATA DUN O!!
hay... MINSAN PROBLEMA KAYA SOBRANG BAGAL NG PILA E DAHIL SA KUNG ANU-ANONG KATANGEKAN...
AAAH! NAIWAN KO IPAPAPIRMA KOH!!
KA-ULULAN...
BAYAW MO LANG
HUYST' MALI YAN'
uhh I REALLY LIKE YOUR WORK! uhm hihi.. I'M STARSTRUCK BY THE WAY...
uhm..
HARRY POTTER
AT KADRAMAHAN...
AAHGHK! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! TAKE ME WITH YOU NA! SOULMATE ME! SOULMATE MEEEE!
RAK en ROL!*
* IN ENGLISH ACCENT

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


NAKAKASIRA DAW SA ATING EKONOMIYA ANG RALLY NG RALLY!! ANO ANG MASASABI NYO?!
BAKA PO SA EKONOMIYA NG MAKATI!! SA AKIN PO NAGKAKATRABAHO PO AKO DAHIL SA RALLY!
ETO NGA PO ANG DAMI KONG KINITA NGAYONG ARAW NA ITO! 2,000 PESOS!! ISANG RALLY LANG YAN!!
ANO PO YAN?
BAYAD PARA UMATEND SA RALLY; BAYAD PARA SABIHIN BINAYARAN AKO SA RALLY; BAYAD PARA HWAG UMATEND SA RALLY; BAYAD PARA, SABIHIN HINDI AKO BINAYARAN
CHIONGLO 7/22

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


'YOKONG SUMAMA SA INYO, HAKOT KAYO!
TATUM&PAPU

Registration for Katha songwriting seminar ongoing

KATHA, an organization of Filipino composers, will hold a songwriting seminar on July 31, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., at UP Balay Kalinaw, QC. Interested parties must register by texting or calling 0920-5788378 on or before July 25.

GOINGS ON

LECTURE. The Japan Foundation, Manila, will hold a Japanese Studies Public Lecture today, 12:30 p.m., at the University of Nueva Caceres' Instructional Media Center, J. Hernandez Ave., Naga City. Call (054) 8116100.

RECITAL. The Silliman University Cultural Affairs Committee and the College of Performing Arts present soprano Josephine Gomez and pianist Carlos Perion in "Life with Music, Life in Music." The program will be held tonight at 8 at the Luce Auditorium, Silliman University, Dumaguete City. Call 4226002.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION. St. Scholastica's College will launch its Centennial Celebration today with a dinner at 6:30 in Manila Polo Club, Makati. Call 8125485/ 8125489/ 8125492.

ANNIVERSARY. The Stella Maris College in Quezon marks its 50th foundation anniversary with a fundraising concert of Spirit of '67 tonight at Phi Resto Bar, Metrowalk Complex, Ortigas Center, Pasig. Call 6350010.

PLAY. Concert at the Park presents "Florante at Laura" on July 24, 6 p.m., in Rizal Park open-air auditorium, Manila. Under the direction of Tony Espejo, the play features the Gantimpala Theater Foundation Actors Company. Admission is free.

BADMINTON OPEN. Join the St. Theresa's College, Manila badminton open leveling practices for ladies' doubles, men's doubles and mixed doubles on July 24, 4-8 p.m., at The Zone, Makati; and August 14, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. The blue-and-gold badminton open will be held September 11. Call 8182482.

POP STAR SEARCH. The Perfect Rhythm Music School invites singing hopefuls aged 13-19 to join the Teen Pop Star Search. Elimination rounds are held every Wednesday of July. Auditions are held Monday to Friday at Perfect Rhythm, BF Resort, Las Piñas. Grand finals is on July 27 at 4/L trade hall, Metropolis Star, Alabang. Call 8734839.

SEMINAR. Corban Daycare and Tutorial Center will hold a new series of Easy English seminars on July 30 and 31, 2-5 p.m. Corban Learning Center is located at the G/F MB Aguirre Bldg., President's Ave. cor. Elizalde St., Sucat, Parañaque. Call 8426665/ 8093050/ 0917-6297718.

SALE. Rustan's holds an end of season sale until July 31 at all its department stores. Tiffany, Givenchy, Culte Femme, Oleg Cassini, Ermenegildo Zegna, Cartier, Anna Sui and Fendi are some of the design labels that take part in this sale.

TOY FAIR. Sta. Lucia East Department Stores and Planet Toys hold an ongoing toy fair until July 31. Avail of big discounts and freebies from participating stores. A lobby exhibit features a wide range of indoor and outdoor toys, novelty items and party favors. Win prizes in the Kiddie Pachinco or the Box of Fun game. You may also win a Sony Playstation 2, Game Boy Advance and remote control cars in the Toy World raffle promo. To join, present your P300 single-purchase receipt at the promo booth within the promo period.

CONTEST. Singapore Tourism Board-Philippines invites all choir groups to join the Empress Chamber Choir Competition, an international choral singing contest. Deadline for submission of entries is on August 1. Call 8130946 or e-mail stbphils@pacific.com.ph.

PHOTO EXHIBIT. An exhibit of photographs of 15 National Artists is ongoing until August 7 at Pasilyo Carlos V. Francisco (Little Theater lobby) of the Cultural Center of the Philippines. The exhibit, "The Artists' Photographer—Images of 15 National Artists," is a selection of some of the outstanding works of Dick Baldovino.

ANNIVERSARY. The Lambda Rho Beta Fraternity of the San Beda College of Law will hold its 34th anniversary celebration on August 8 in Club Filipino, Kalayaan Hall, Greenhills, San Juan. Registration and cocktails will start at 6 p.m. while the program commences at 7 p.m.

BEAUTY TILT. The search for Ms Young Philippines 2005 is ongoing until August 15 at Suite 2024-A East Wing, Philippine Stock Exchange, Tektite Tower, Ortigas, Pasig. The pre-pageant will be on September 25. Call 6353043 to 44/ 9610554/ 6876960 to 61.

COURSE. The Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation will hold a course on digital photography starting August 20. Call 8137420/ 8435341.

FAIR. The 26th Manila International Book Fair and the 2nd Learning and Information Technology Fair will be held on August 31-September 4 at the World Trade Center, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Roxas Blvd. Call 8900661/ 8960682.

PHOTO CONTEST. The Philippine Travel Mart and Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation have launched a photo tilt dubbed "My Best Travel Photo." Deadline for submission of entries is on September 10 and awarding on September 11. Call 8435341/ 8137420.

Hope for women with thinning hair

IF YOU think only men lose their hair, think again!

Clinical reports say more than 20 million American women experience some kind of hair loss as they age. Although no such figure is available in the Philippines, many mature women are beginning to complain of thinning hair. This problem usually occurs after menopause.

Some women can experience the condition at an earlier age. Hair loss may also be due to hereditary factors, malnutrition, stress, hormone imbalance, autoimmune and thyroid disorders, post-pregnancy changes and chemotherapy.

Hair loss can be prevented or addressed in several ways such as changes in health habits, including a balanced diet, sufficient rest and management of stress.

Adding Omega-3 fatty acids in the daily diet can help minimize hair loss. Eat salmon, herring, sardines or mackerel at least twice a week. Walnuts—a handful a day—are also hair-friendly, as well as whole grains, beans, chicken, dark leafy vegetables and fruits.

Hair replacement can also be considered. A wig or a hairpiece may help but it can be uncomfortable, expensive and inconvenient. It is also not a permanent solution and requires maintenance and replacement.

Hair weaving is another option but maintenance is quite expensive. The weekly or bi-monthly upkeep can cost a few thousand pesos. But without it, sweat, grime and odor that are unhealthy and unhygienic accumulate on the hair .

The only true and permanent solution is hair transplant. In this procedure, you're not going to use anybody else's hair but your own, taken from the back and sides of the head. The process lasts only several hours, and the client can chat, listen to music, watch television while the transplant is going on.

Individual hair follicles are simply harvested from a donor area at the back of the head and transplanted into the thinning and balding areas. The client does not feel any pain, just a mild discomfort.

Being a natural process, it takes some five to six months before the full results of the transplant can be truly seen and appreciated. However, the results are well worth it: a natural head of hair that will be permanently there. And it's all yours!

Nu/Hart Hair Clinics, a globally renowned, US-based hair transplant organization, put up its first center in the Philippines in December 2004 to service men and women in the Philippines who are concerned about their hair loss. It also has centers in the United States, Puerto Rico and Dubai. The cost of having the procedure done in Manila is far lower than that in other countries.

Since its founding in 1989, Nu/Hart has performed over 25,000 individual hair restoration procedures on clients from over 40 countries. Nu/Hart centers are supported by a dedicated team of US-trained hair transplant surgeons. Its Manila office is located at the Wynsum Corporate Plaza on 22 F. Ortigas Jr. Road (formerly Emerald Ave.) in Ortigas Center. Call 6386000, visit www.nuhart.com or e-mail manila@nuhartme.com.

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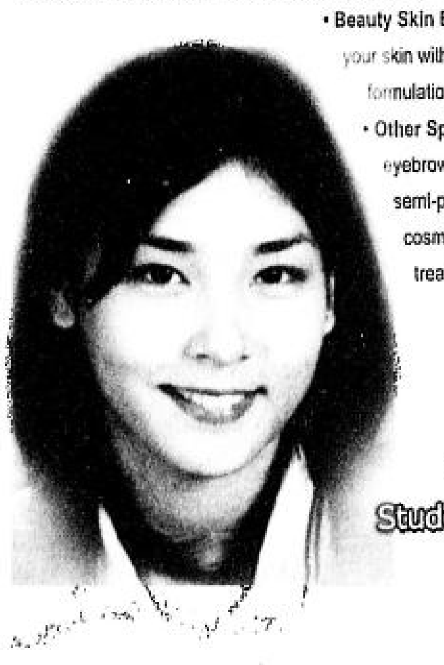
- **Beauty Skin Enhancement** caring for your skin with proven beauty skin formulations available to our clients.
- **Other Special Services** permanent eyebrow, eyeline & lipline tattoo, semi-permanent eyelash curling, cosmetic surgery, body odor treatment and botox treatment.



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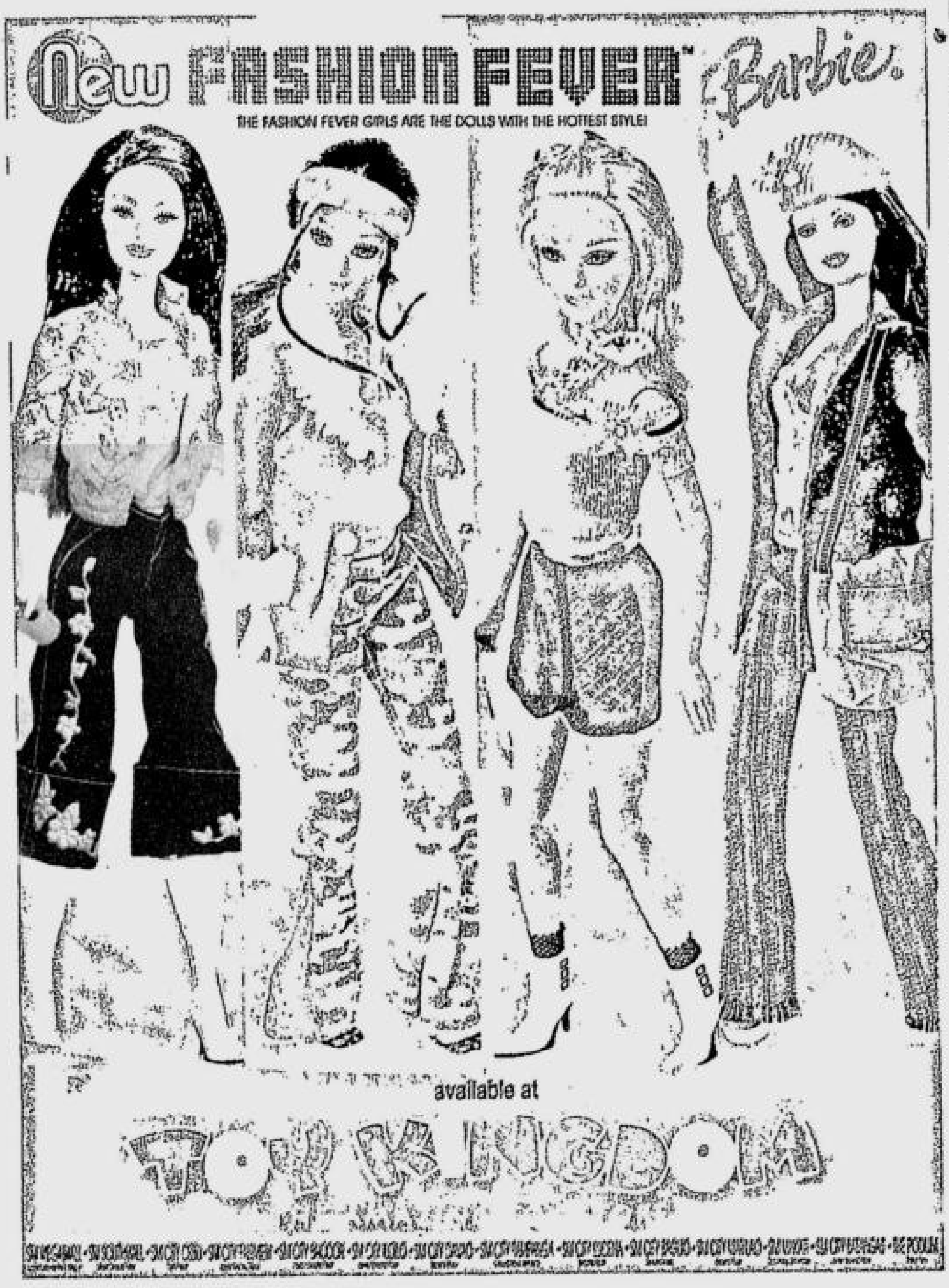
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THE FASHION FEVER GIRLS ARE THE DOLLS WITH THE HOTTEST STYLE!
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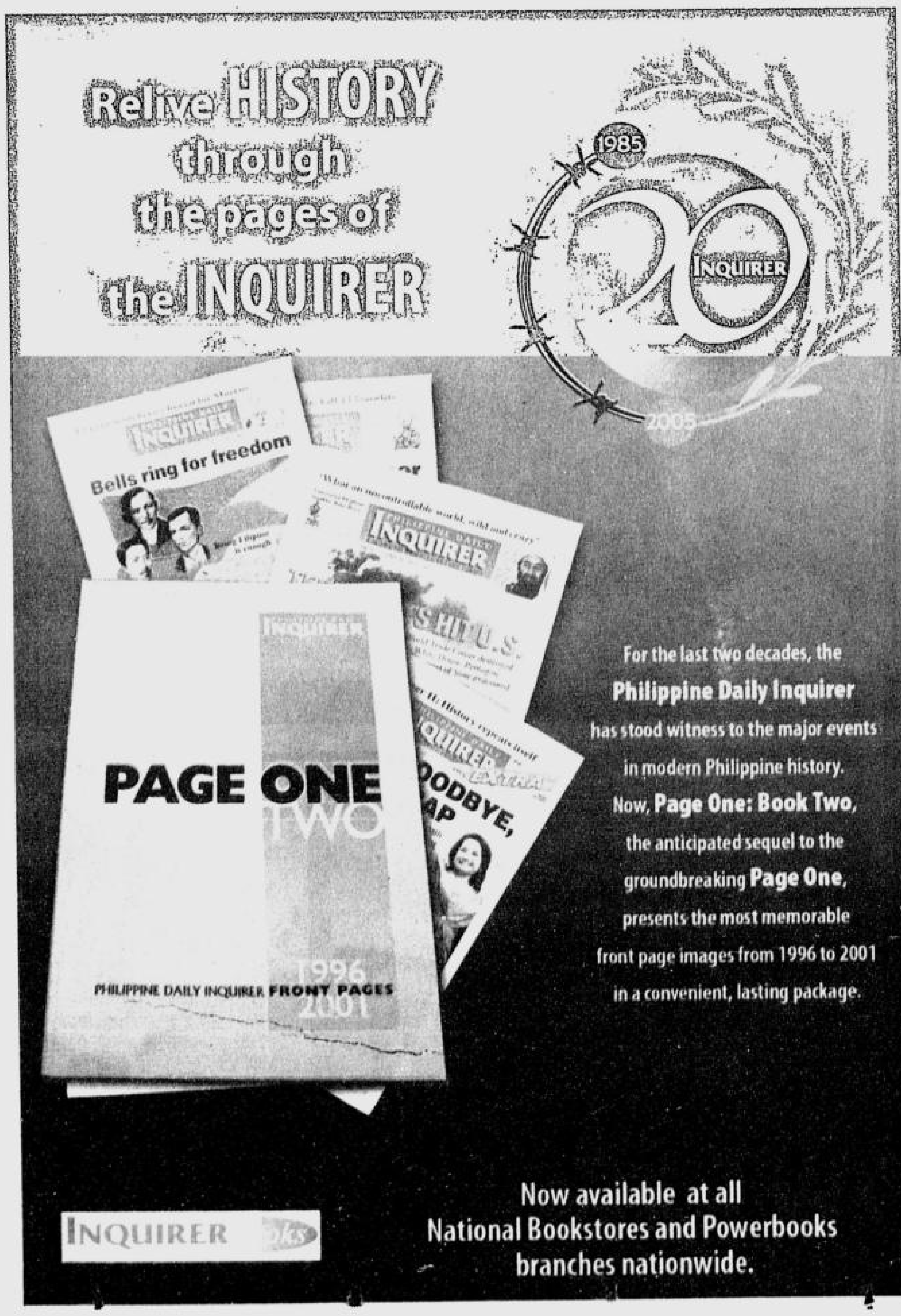
TOY KINGDOM


Relive HISTORY through the pages of the INQUIRER

1985 20 INQUIRER 2005

For the last two decades, the **Philippine Daily Inquirer** has stood witness to the major events in modern Philippine history. Now, **Page One: Book Two,** the anticipated sequel to the groundbreaking **Page One,** presents the most memorable front page images from 1996 to 2001 in a convenient, lasting package.

Now available at all National Bookstores and Powerbooks branches nationwide.

INQUIRER

TYPICAL busy day at Menage Salon

Top-of-the-line hair services now at new Gateway Mall

THE NEWLY opened Ménage Salon at Level 2 of Gateway Mall in Araneta Center has a stable of excellent hairstylists and offers top-of-the-line hair service and treatments. Haircut with shampoo and finishing ranges from P180-P300 only.

Other hair treatments include Ménage Oil Treatment and Happy Hair treatment for dandruff; Smooth Express for improvement of stressed or damaged hair; Total Repair for color treated hair; Dual Treatment for sensitive scalp; Phytobiogin Treatment to fight hair loss; Hair Spa and Color Injection, an immediate treatment right after being color-treated.

Ménage likewise provides exclusive technical services for customers. There's Color Conditioning, a semi-permanent hue with shine for those who regularly want to change the color of their hair; Retouch to cover hair regrowth; Washout, for the removal of previous hair tint; and Color Correction, which neutralizes hair before putting on a different shade.

Ménage also offers a first-rate bridal package, which includes two entourage members.

Ménage salon hair products are by Schwarzkopf, one of the largest brand companies in the world, providing the perfect complement to the latest cuts and color directions, so you can be sure your hair is styled to perfection every time.

Call Ménage Salon at 9111901.

Luxury skincare line opens in Cubao

SHISEIDO recently opened a new store at the 2/L of Gateway Mall in Cubao.

Inside the store, items are arranged according to product lines, namely Benefiance, Pureness, The Skincare, White Lucent, Suncare, Body Creator, Future Solution, Shiseido Men and the Makeup line.

Don't miss the opportunity to treat yourself to the famed Shiseido facial services. Years of research have shown that regular facial massage can lead to smoother, more radiant skin as it releases toxins and impurities. For a satisfyingly thorough facial massage service, try the following: Pureness for Oily Skin for only P1,400; Stress Clean for only P1,600; and Whitening and Anti-Aging for only P1,900. All services are to be scheduled by appointment.

Let Shiseido help to bring out the beauty in you. Call 9135609/10.

Instant rejuvenation from head to toe

IF YOU feel tired and want instant rejuvenation, pamper yourself from head to toe with Nu Skin's Epoch products.

To revive dull-looking skin, Nu Skin recommends the skin-purifying Glacial Marine Mud, which is formulated to de-stress the skin, leaving it visibly clean, firmer and with a healthy glow. Epoch's Glacial Marine Mud is a pure, refreshing clay mask that deeply cleanses by drawing out dead cells and absorbing impurities in the skin. Made of minute clay particles discovered by Native Americans of the Pacific Northwest and sea botanicals, the Glacial Marine Mud is an invigorating, skin-purifying product.

Give your body a refreshing bath with Epoch Polishing Bar, a soap-free deep cleansing bar that removes impurities. The product contains Glacial Marine Mud and *sisku'pas* (ground bark)—used by Native Americans of the Pacific Northwest to smoothen the skin by sloughing off dead skin cells, leaving a "polished" look.

Whether working or playing, time spent on your feet can leave your legs feeling exhausted. Revitalize your legs with IceDancer and rub in relief with its clear, cooling formula that's easily absorbed by the skin. It contains natural wild mint (Mentha arvensis), used by an ancient Native American tribe for calming aches and pains. This soothing mint is a combination of horse chestnut, eucalyptus and peppermint that stimulates tired legs.

At the end of the day, soothe your tired feet with FireWalker Moisturizing Foot Cream. This unique foot cream is enriched with natural ingredients like Hawaiian Ti plant extract (Cordyline terminalis) traditionally used by Polynesian firewalkers to absorb heat and soothe the skin. Firewalker also contains *babassu* oil (Orbignya phalerata) that provides thorough moisturization, leaving your feet soft, supple and refreshed.

epoch.
epoch.
epoch.
epoch.
Polishing Bar

NU Skin's Epoch product line

These products are part of Nu Skin's Epoch line, which offers ethnobotanical solutions to health and skin concerns. Each Epoch product is formulated with botanical ingredients derived from renewable resources found in nature, and the formulas are based on the wisdom of traditional healers from ancient indigenous cultures.

Epoch products are locally marketed through person-to-distribution by Nu Skin's local affiliate, Nu Skin Enterprises Philippines Inc. Call the distributor hotline at 6890333 or log on to www.nuskin.com.ph.

Nu Skin is the personal care division of Nu Skin Enterprises Inc., one of the top global multilevel marketing companies.

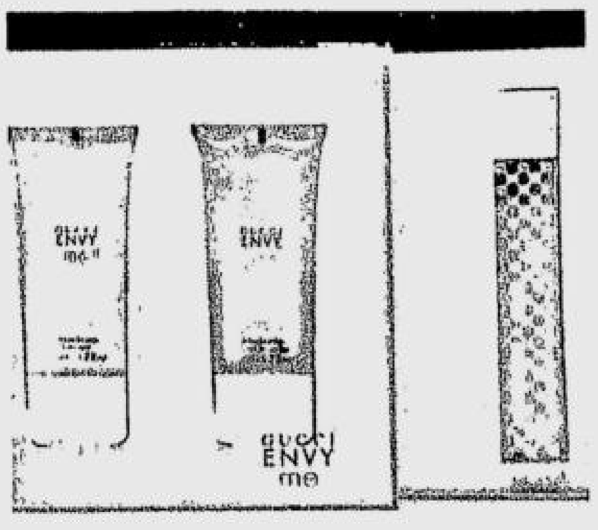
Charming fragrance gift set

A FLORAL, musky, fruity fragrance with a unique structure, Gucci Envy Me is the scent of a woman who follows her impulses and enjoys indulgence. She amuses herself by being the object of desire. Wearing it, she says, "Watch me, want me, envy me!"

Gucci demonstrates the power of the fragrance in a set that includes a Gucci Envy Me EDT Spray 50 ml, Body Lotion 50 ml, and Shower Gel 50 ml—all for the special price of only P3,450. Offer valid until supply lasts.

Gucci Envy Me is available in a slender crystal column wrapped in the signature Gucci "GG" logo, revealing the pale pink juice within.

Exclusively distributed by Rustan Marketing Corporation in leading department stores nationwide.



GUCCI Envy Me

LIFESTYLE

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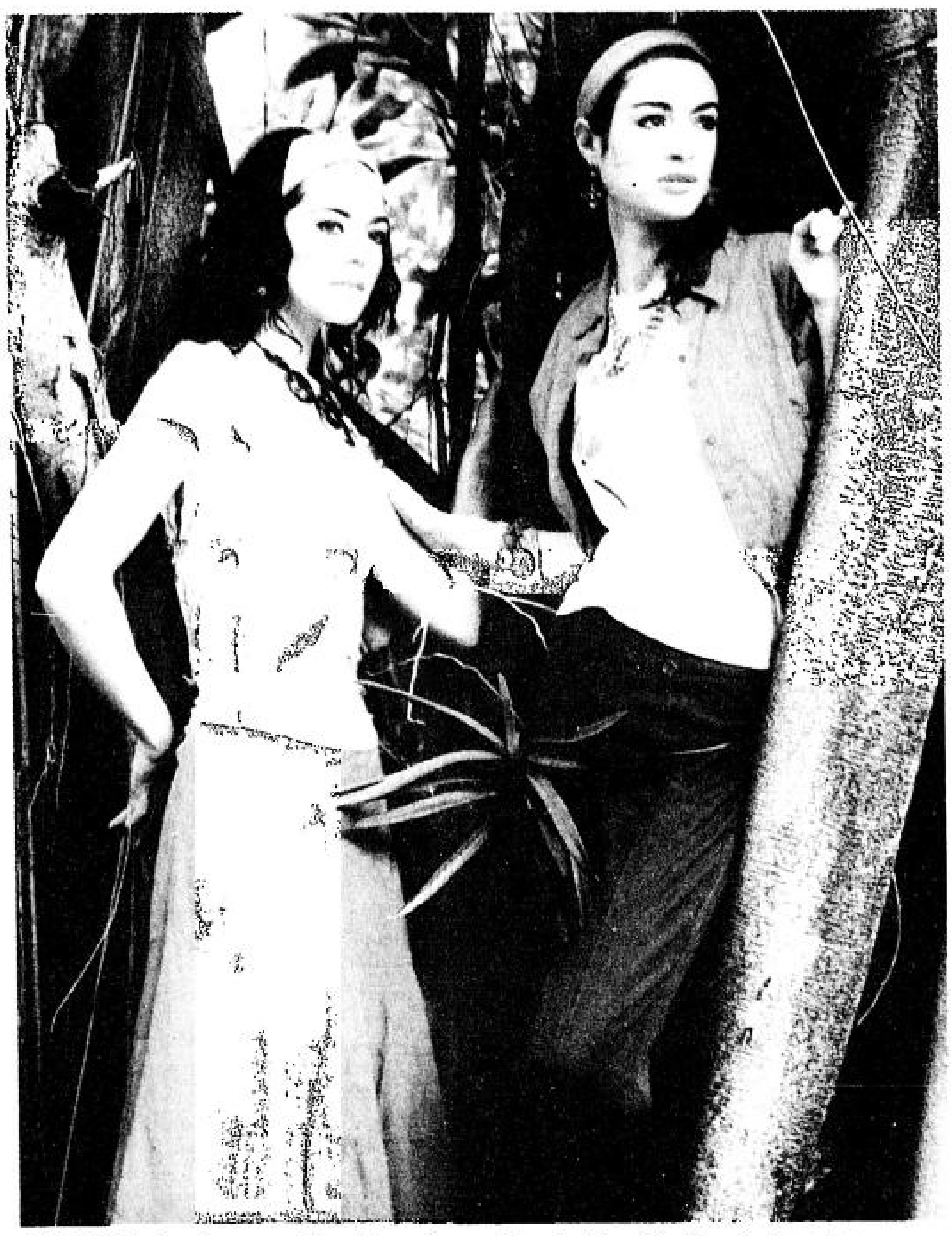
Text us your feedback:
Inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

NTC @ 26
See F2

SHELL jersey bootleg pants and cap-sleeve jungle side-tie blouse



ON TANYA, tiered cotton skirt and cap-sleeve allover leaf top. On Yasmin, sleeveless appliqué vest, cap-sleeve spot Leno blouse, self-stripe bootleg pants

TIE-FRONT camisole, self-stripe bootleg pants; Henley stripe bag, corsage cap-sleeve top, stab-stitch bootleg pants

SPRIGGS blouse and skirt in chocolate

Pretty in florals

BEADED cardigan, sleeveless appliqué vest, chevron stripe skirt, suede punched shoulder bag

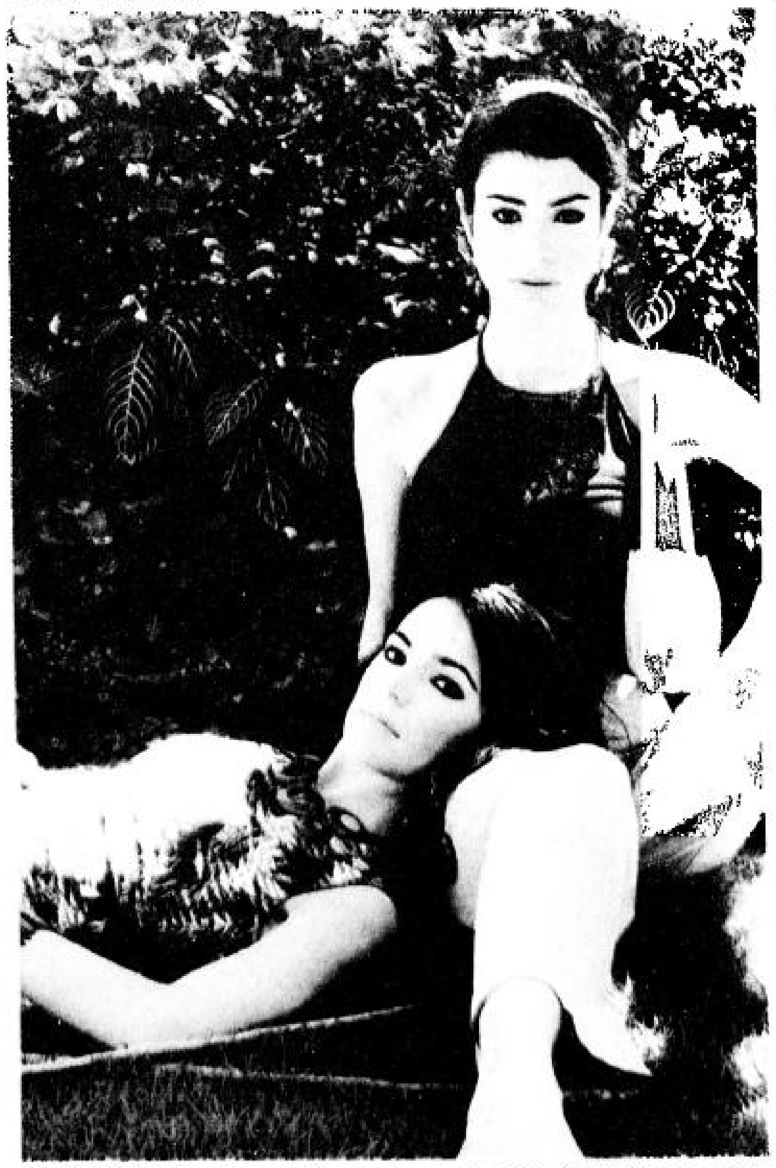
MULTI-PLEAT skirt, cap-sleeve twist-front blouse, beaded cardigan; cap-sleeve Panama stripe skirt, denim blazer, stab-stitch bootleg pants, Henley stripe bag

IN MARKS & Spencer's new Ladies Collection, pretty pinks, florals and corals and muted browns take center stage.

The collection offers a mix of colors, prints, cuts and textures that ensures the female of the species will find her match, whatever her personality or mood. Sleeveless tops and halters in delicate florals tame the tropical weather while still looking nectar-sweet. Psychedelic paisleys and prints add a touch of feline charm to the nature-inspired mix. Browns, blacks and reds blend in with the shades of nature, highlighted in slim cuts, flattering silhouettes and sexy minimalist straps.

Crochet accents and brooches add points of interest. Cardigans and denim jackets offer volume, while pants and skirts come in pinstripes, solids and matching prints.

Rustan Marketing Specialists Inc. is the official franchisee of Marks & Spencer in the Philippines. Marks & Spencer stores are in these locations: Shangri-La Plaza, Glorietta 4, Greenbelt 3, Alabang Town Center, Gateway Mall, SM Megamall, SM North Edsa, Power Plant Mall, Robinsons Place, Harrison Plaza, Starmills Pampanga, Ayala Center Cebu, and Robinsons Galleria.



SLEEVELESS bamboo-shell print blouse; motif halter top in chocolate

Stopover sa Sarap

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CHICKEN COMPANY
INIHAW EXPRESS
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SAN LAZARO
At the lower ground floor

26th Anniversary
National Telecommunications Commission

Messages

I CONGRATULATE the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) on the occasion of your 26th Founding Anniversary.

This event shows your firm commitment to ensure that our people will continue to benefit from reliable and affordable telecommunications technology. As the sole government agency tasked to regulate the performance of the industry you represent a vital force in our goal to raise the quality of life of our people.

Our Administration is committed to implement significant structural reforms that will offer investment opportunities to local and international business communities. The Philippines hopes to be the ICT outsourcing destination for its high quality, low-cost infrastructure and services. I hope this celebration will inspire all of you to continue your laudable work in providing our people with better opportunities for growth and development. I join you in celebrating your achievements as a continuing partner in nation building.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

Gloria Arroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

AS we celebrate another momentous occasion for our NTC family in our anniversary in the month of July 2005, let us take time to thank God for the way we have been so richly blessed after another banner year. July signals a new leaf for our commission because it will mark our 26th year as a catalyst in the Telecommunications, Broadcast and CATV Industries. It is a turning point of yet another challenging year ahead to count over blessings. Looking back 26 years hence, one of the most significant turning points in NTC's history was when it officially became the sole government agency mandated to tend to the requisites of the then fledgling but growing Telecommunications, Broadcast and CATV Industries on July 23, 1979. Today, in compliance of our "mission/vision" goal, NTC continues to provide the public with utmost dedication in public service and rely primarily on our "mission/vision" statement in our adherence to the principles of excellence in the service of our fellowmen.

RONALD OLIVAR SOLIS
NTC Commissioner

LUBOS akong nakikiis0a sa aking mga kasamahan sa pagidiriwang ng ika-26 na anibersaryo ng pagkakataguyod ng National Telecommunications Commission (NTC).

Ang mahalaga sa ganitong mga pagkakataon ay hindi lamang ang pag-alala at pag-gunita sa mga programang nagawa ng Komisyon upang patibayin at maisulong ang industriya ng komunikasyon sa ating bansa para sa kapakinabangan ng ating mga kababayan, kundi ang pagpapasalamat at pagbigay halaga sa ating mga katuwang na sector sa telekomunikasyon pati na ng mga kasapi sa Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas na patuloy na nakikiisa sa ating layunin na mapagsilbihan at mapaglingkuran ang ating mga kababayan.

Dalangin ko na sana ay lalo nating mapagbuti ang ating panunungkulan at patuloy nating mapangunahan ang ating bayan sa pagpapalaganap ng mga bago at modernong teknolohiyang pang komunikasyon para sa ika-uunlad ng ating mga kababayan. Ngunit sa ibabaw ng lahat, tayong lahat ay patuloy na makipagkaisa sa ating Mahal na Pangulo upang tayo ay maging tunay na matatag na Republika na handang humarap sa anumang hamon at pag-subok at upang ating mapatunayan sa buong mundo na tayo nga ay isang nagkakaisa at maunlad na Republika.

Mabuhay ang National Telecommunications Commission at Mabuhay ang Republika ng Pilipinas!

JAIME MORALES FORTES JR.
NTC Deputy Commissioner

AS INFORMATION Technology means the processing of information by means of computers; communications, on the other hand, is the electronic transfer of information from one location to another. The convergence of these two technologies paves the way to information and communications technology (ICT).

The new millennium opened its door to ICT and the government is stepping up to the realization of developing an ICT industry. This is highlighted by the creation of the Commission on Information and Communications Technology (CICT), which brings together different agencies that oversee both the IT and communications sector in the country.

The National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) has always played a key role in the regulation of all telecommunications operations and infrastructure in the Philippines. With the onset of ICT, it has conveniently accepted that it will now be working hand in hand with agencies involved with IT.

Now an attached agency of the CICT, NTC is expected to continue its tasks in providing and regulating reliable, affordable and viable ICT infrastructure and services, accessible to all.

Twenty-six years has passed and NTC continues to live by its mission. As the agency continues its journey of providing valuable services to the citizenry, I wish to laud you for all your efforts towards the smooth implementation of ICT in the entire nation.

Congratulations!

VIRGILIO L. PEÑA
CICT Chairman

CELEBRATING the 26th anniversary of the founding of the National Telecommunications Commission not only allows us the opportunity to look back and measure the gains we have achieved for the industry and sector we have been mandated to regulate on behalf of our various stakeholders.

More importantly, the commemoration of milestones in the life of our institution imposes upon us to look forward and hope for more fruitful years to come, and consequently vow to do our best to surmount the challenges that come with the fast pace of development in the worldwide telecommunications industry.

If we are to bridge that gap in the wide divide borne primarily of economic and technological differences in the global community, we should work together with zealous commitment to our responsibilities, even as we also enjoin everyone in the telecommunications sector to do their part with equal enthusiasm and concern for the common good of industry players as well as consumers.

The future, undoubtedly, looks promising because we have great faith in the public servants who make up the Commission, the industry players who will continue to offer their best, and in the general public whom we do not only consider as clients and consumers but, more importantly, as partners in our quest for a truly progressive and prosperous tomorrow.

JORGE V. SARMIENTO
NTC Deputy Commissioner

Serving the people amidst technological advancements

SERVING the public while enhancing the country's over-all capability to utilize information and communication technology for development remain to be the top priorities of the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) as it celebrates its 26th founding anniversary.

As one of the agencies attached to the Commission on Information and Communications Technology, NTC takes center stage in providing nationally an environment where industry players can perform in a level playing field as they offer to the consuming public reliable and cost-efficient communications facilities and services.

Commissioner Ronald Olivar Solis emphasizes the role of the Commission in regulating the telecommunications industry at a time when "accelerated development is taking place and the only way for our country to be competitive in the global community is to join the march towards the digital age."

Solis cites as a major concern of the NTC the advancement of technology that has made possible the 3-G (third generation) mobile phone and the Voice Over Internet protocol (VoIP) that reduces the cost of overseas calls from $0.40 to $0.10. Thus the Commission issued a draft memorandum regarding the allocation of 3-G licenses and radio frequency bands, as well as a draft memorandum pertinent to the regulation of VoIP as a value-added service.

Solis realizes the significance of the 3G wireless networks, "since they can transfer data at very high speed and even carry higher volumes of data than the current General Packet Radio Services (GPRS) and Enhanced Data Rates for GSM Evolution (EDGE) systems are able to." Interestingly, 3G also brings the power of video into the mobile world. The 3G device a consumer holds can actually double as a digital camera, video camera, PDA, MP3 player, games equipment, media and entertainment device, electronic wallet and mobile videophone. To belabor the point, the technologies of voice, video and data have converged in the 3G mobile phone.

According to Deputy Commissioner Jorge V, Sarmiento, "3G is definitely the right technology that would power mobile communications into the future. Consumers will then be able to communicate by video, voice and text, while the powerful applications users can enjoy their enhanced access to entertainment and information, all of these, at the press of a button."

Other concerns that need to be addressed include the reduction of the cost of connectivity. According to Solis, "The NTC should promote a healthy market competition, and this can be achieved through an enabling environment that permits the entrance of telecom players that will provide ICT and ICT-related services."

The cable industry, on the other hand, has been a source of challenge to the NTC. Piracy, for example, has become a problem and the agency is looking into how it could best assist in solving the problem. NTC, too, has indicated its intention to serve as an intermediary between cable operators and program providers. Solis, for his part, sees the need "to set standards that will prevent ruinous competition as in a setting where one cable company lords it over one area to the disadvantage of other cable companies."

NTC, in encouraging healthy competition, undertook measures leading towards demonopolization. In 2004, it divided the telecom field in 10 service areas and consequently opened the gateways to foreign nations. This, of course, signaled to investors that they are welcome in this part of the world.

Serving the citizenry

As articulated by the NTC's collective leadership, the primary responsibility of the Commission is public service. "If we do our best to ensure that our fellow Filipinos would enjoy innovations as they are now being enjoyed by our Asian neighbors, it is because we look at the consumers as the number one reason for our being," says Sarmiento.

"Regulating the telecommunications industry as the number one mandate of the NTC merely affirms that we are here to protect the people and to widen their choices according to their needs and financial capabilities," he stresses.

The agency established the One Stop Public Assistance Centers (Ospac) in the central and regional offices to respond to the growing problem of cell phone theft. The centers, when properly informed, coordinate with cell phone companies in blocking the units, thus rendering them unfit for further use. NTC, too, employs legal action to combat malicious and unsolicited text messages and fake SMS.

In the National Capital Region, the NTC launched the Express Serbisyo sa Publiko which shortened the "normal" processing time of one or two weeks. This not only eliminated red tape but also put fixers out of business.

In the provinces, the "NTC on Wheels" periodically reaches out to the people as they make available NTC services that normally are availed of only in the regional centers.

Securing a bright future through the eNTC

IN LINE with the ten-point agenda of the administration of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, the NTC stands committed to developing a strategic, reliable and cost efficient ICT infrastructure and system. It shall continue to provide an e-enabling environment while promoting ICT services in areas not adequately served by the private sector. As a regulatory agency, it shall endeavor, at all cost, to protect consumers while ensuring their welfare.

To address the requirements of the future, the NTC has embarked on the eNTC project, which primarily envisions an electronically-enabled NTC. In essence, it will seek to energize the ICT industry, enable the various stakeholders of the sector, and empower the NTC organization itself. With Sarmiento heading the eNTC Project Implementation Committee, ICT consumers and stakeholders can look forward to such developments as: the computerization of the National Spectrum Management; implementation of web-based services; provision of customer-centric services; establishment of strategic linkages; establishment of integrated office systems; creation of integrated databases; and the efficient generation of information and statistics.

While the project would entail a total budgetary requirement of P582 million, spread throughout the period 2005 to 2009, the NTC leadership has, time and again, pointed out that given the income it earns for the government, which in 2004 reached P1,495,242,468.13, the agency deserves an increase in budget . Interestingly, data would show that despite its large contribution to the national coffers, the NTC budgetary appropriation for 2005 is only P168,663,000. The eNTC project, moreover, should qualify for assistance coming from the e-fund of the government, meant for the institutionalization of e-governance in the country.

United leadership, dedicated staff

Despite the discrepancy between the agency's earnings and its meager budgetary allocation, the National Telecommunications Commission remains hopeful as it seeks to address its problems and concerns in the coming years.

Newly-appointed Deputy Commissioner Jaime Fortes Jr. envisions the "enhancement of our services as well as the capabilities of our staff as we strive to achieve our given mandate using the resources that are available to us, while exploring other legal sources to augment what we now have."

Fortes, while acknowledging the imperative of a budgetary increase, affirms that "the best asset of the agency is its people, both the officials and the staff who are proactive in the pursuit of their respective responsibilities."

Although new in the service, Fortes brings with him years of legal practice that focused on the telecommunications industry. He speaks from experience and first-hand knowledge when he says that "the leadership at the NTC, for the last few years, has made possible the gains that the consumers and other stakeholders in the industry are now enjoying.

"It is this cooperative and supportive relationship among the officials and the staff that has brought NTC to where it is," Fortes concludes.

Final Schedule for July 18 to 22, 2005

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITIES	VENUE	STATUS
July 18, 2005 (Monday)	6:30 am - 7:30 am	Fun Run	NTC Grounds/BIR Road	EMPLU
	8:00	Flag Ceremony.	NTC Grounds	
	9:00 am-12 noon	Forum on Rationalization Program of the Civil Service Commission Group 1 and 2	NTC Multi Purpose Hall	Dir. Anicia M. De Lima Civil Service Commission (Resource Speaker)
	1:30 pm (Resume Forum)			
July 19, 2005 (Tuesday)	9:00 am	Opening of the Regional Directors' Meeting	Executive Conference Room	TPDD will act as facilitator with RDs Secretariat
	2:00 - 5:00pm	RD's Workshop for Rationalization Program		Change Management Group AFD
July 20, 2005 (Wednesday)	9:00 am - 10:00 am	Opening of Booths (Telcos and Dealers)	NTC Lobby	Assigned committee has issued invitations to TELCOS Only
	10:00 am -5:00 pm	RD's Workshop for Rationalization Program Closing of Regional Directors' Meeting	Executive Conference Room	Change Management Group AFD
July 21, 2005 (Thursday)	8:00 am - 10:00 am	Breakfast Forum with the CEO	NTC Multi Purpose Hall	Committee has outlined the activities
	10:30am - 12 Noon 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Seminar/Forum Legal Department CCAD/DSD	Executive Conference Room Multi-Purpose Hall	Assigned Committee is confirming availability of resource speakers
July 22, 2005 (Friday)	8:00 am - 11:00 am	Seminar/Forum Legal Department CCAD/DSD	Multi Purpose Hall	Same
	11:30 nn	Lunch	NTC Multi Purpose Hall	Committee on food has finalized the menu
	2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Mass		Ms. Dechavez has invited the priest and to submit budget for flowers and candles
	3:00 pm -5:00 pm	Program Proper		Assigned Committee has finalized activities
	5:00 pm	Merienda Cena		Committee on food has finalized the menu

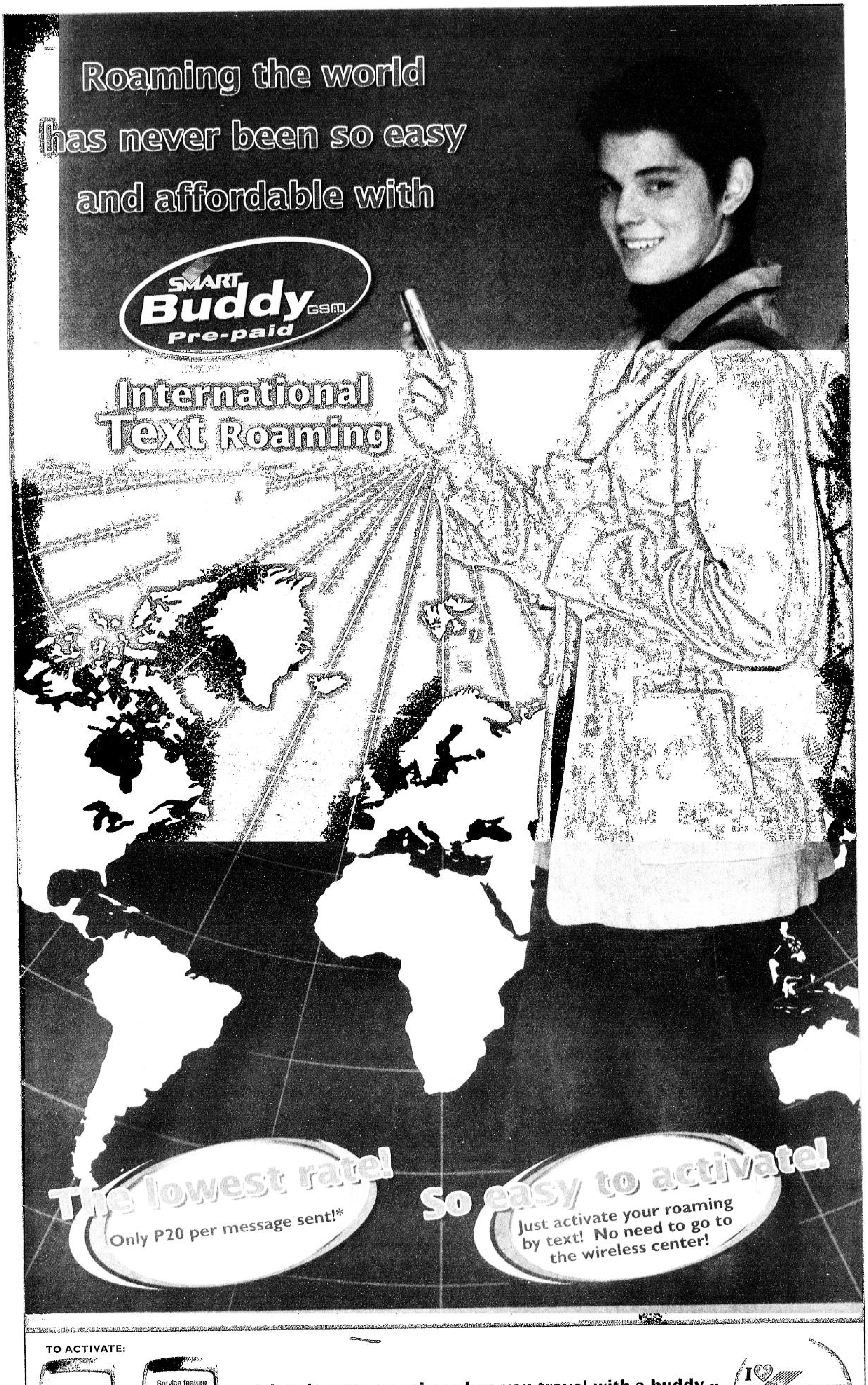
Ten-Point Agenda to "BEAT THE ODDS" in six years
Under the Arroyo Administration

"Beat the Odds - this will be our battle cry and agenda for the next six years"
President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
What it stands for

B-Balanced Budget
E-Education for all
A- Automated elections
T- Transport and digital infrastructure to connect the country

T- Terminate the MILF and NPA conflicts
H - Heal the wounds of Edsa
E- Electricity and water for all barangays

O - Opportunities for 10 million jobs
D- Decongest Metro Manila
DS- Develop Clark and Subic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   - **CALL25** - for the voice offer; P25, good for 10 days
   - **CALL50** - for the voice offer; P50, good for 30 days
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